



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 329

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by **SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MEASURES BEING UNDERTAKEN, IF ANY, TO ARREST THE PHILIPPINES' PREVALENT PLASTIC WASTES LEAKAGE INTO THE SEAS

WHEREAS, our 1987 Philippine Constitution clearly provides that it is the policy of the State "to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature"¹;

WHEREAS, Republic Act (RA) No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 was enacted in order to provide a legal framework for the systematic, comprehensive and ecological solid waste management program of the Philippines that will ensure the protection of public health and the environment;

WHEREAS, it is alarming that even with the existence of the said State policy and the mandated solid waste management program under RA 9003, it has been reported that the Philippines is included among the countries with high incidence of plastic waste leakage into the seas²;

WHEREAS, in the study entitled "*Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean*"³ led by Jenna R. Jamback of the College of Engineering, University of Georgia, as of 2010, the Philippines already ranked third, next to China and Indonesia, among 192 countries surveyed in terms of estimated volume of mismanaged plastic wastes produced by the population that could potentially enter the seas and oceans;

WHEREAS, marine plastic wastes pose an extreme danger to the Philippines' marine natural resources as marine animals become sick and die when they are entangled in or ingest plastic wastes, which will threaten the entire ecosystem as livelihoods and food sources are adversely affected;

WHEREAS, the proponent of this proposed resolution regularly conducts monthly coastal clean-up on the Las Piñas- Parañaque side of Manila Bay since

¹ Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution.

² <http://www.rappler.com/science-nature/environment/108276-philippines-plastic-pollution-ocean-conservancy-study>

³ Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean by Jenna R. Jamback, et. al; Science 347, 768 (2015); DOI10.1126/science. 1260352

2011 as well as on the Baseco portion of the Manila Bay since 2015 and through these frequent activities, she has witnessed firsthand the overwhelming presence of plastic wastes in the waters and shorelines, mostly made up of packaging materials and sachets of diverse products or brands, ranging from shampoos, conditioners, candies, biscuits, junk food, coffee, milk, and detergent, mostly made, distributed or sold by well-known manufacturing firms operating in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, a “business as usual” approach in reducing the plastic waste will barely contribute to efforts reducing the prevalence of plastic waste leakage into our seas;

WHEREAS, in order to effectively manage the Philippines’ plastic wastes and to significantly diminish plastic wastes entering and destroying marine natural resources, bolder and more innovative measures should be undertaken not only by government as the active participation and cooperation of commercial manufacturers are crucial in making these measures work;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, measures being undertaken, if any, to arrest the Philippines’ high prevalence of plastic wastes leakage into the seas with the end in view of formulating bolder and more innovative policies aimed to reduce and eventually prevent the leakage of plastic wastes into bodies of water within and surrounding the Philippines.

Adopted,



CYNTHIA A. VILLAR