



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

'18 FEB 21 P5:57

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

P. S. RES. NO. 646

Introduced by Senator JOEL VILLANUEVA

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE, TO INQUIRE AND REVIEW, IN
AID OF LEGISLATION, THE PROCEDURES FOR THE
APPROVAL AND MONITORING OF ENVIRONMENTALLY
CRITICAL PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) disclosed that 300 establishments in Boracay Island would be served notices of violation, allegedly due to the latter's failure to comply with the conditions attached to their Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECCs). These establishments were given a window of two months to install their own wastewater treatment facilities or to connect to the Boracay Island Water Company sewage treatment plant. Meanwhile, the DENR is also set to serve 174 show-cause orders to illegal forest occupants who have encroached on the Island's timberland areas;

WHEREAS, President Duterte threatened to close down the Island within six months if the private establishments operating in the island are unable to comply with the order of the government. According to the Boracay Foundation, Inc., the threatened closure would result in the loss of jobs of an estimated 90,000 workers;

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree No. 1586 requires that any person who undertake or operate an environmentally critical project or area must secure an ECC which shall be issued after the submission of, among others, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The ECC is issued after determining that the project or undertaking would not cause significant negative environmental impact. Once issued, the proponent of a project or undertaking is also required to comply with certain conditions and environmental laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, Republic Act No. 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004. This Act requires owners

or operators of facilities that discharge regulated effluents to secure a permit to discharge, which serves as an authorization to discharge wastewater;

WHEREAS, the proliferation of private establishments in the Island and the poor monitoring and enforcement of environmental laws have resulted in massive environmental damage in the Island which threatens the viability of the Island as a prime tourist destination;

WHEREAS, some environmentally-critical projects may also aggravate the impact of climate change to the country;

WHEREAS, there is a need to review the conduct of environmental impact assessment due to the changing environment and the approval process of the DENR with regard to applications for ECCs to ensure that the certificate is only issued upon showing that the project or undertaking would not cause environmental damage or will not aggravate the impact of climate change, and that once issued, regular monitoring will be conducted by the government to ensure compliance;

RESOLVE BY THE SENATE, that the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and other appropriate committees of the Senate, inquire and review, in aid of legislation, the approval and monitoring process for the procurement of environmental permits and clearances, with a view to strengthening the mandate of the DENR in enforcing environmental laws and regulations.

Adopted,


SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA