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SENATE
P.S. Res No. 727

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND POSSIBLE AMENDMENT OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8749, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE CLEAN AIR ACT OF 1999", IN LIGHT OF THE REPORTED HIGH LEVELS OF INDOOR AND OUTDOOR POLLUTION IN THE COUNTRY, THEIR LINK TO THE RISING MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY RATES DUE TO RESPIRATORY-RELATED DISEASES, AND FOREGONE ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY AS A RESULT THEREOF

WHEREAS, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares it a State policy to "...protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, Section 16 of the same Article of the Constitution further declares it a State policy to "...protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, pursuant to these provisions in our Fundamental Law, Republic Act No. 8749, or the "*Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999*" was enacted in recognition that "...[a] clean and healthy environment is for the good of all and should, therefore, be the concern of all";

WHEREAS, citing data from the World Health Organization, various news outlets recently reported that the Philippines has the second highest number of deaths due to indoor pollution in the Asia-Pacific Region;

WHEREAS, the news reports cited above also claimed that nearly 84 deaths per 100,000 Filipinos were recorded in 2016 due to indoor or household air pollution, second only to Laos where 85 deaths per 100,000 population were recorded;

WHEREAS, further, 45.3 deaths per 100,000 individuals due to outdoor air pollution, due to outdoor air pollution, third in the Asia-Pacific Region after China which had 81.5 deaths per 100,000 individuals and Mongolia 48.8 deaths per 100,000 individuals;

WHEREAS, on one hand, deaths due to indoor pollution were attributed to the use of kerosene and wood in stoves, open fires and lamps;

WHEREAS, on the other hand, deaths due to outdoor air pollution were attributed to inefficient energy use as well as the continued utilization of use of coal-fired power plants;

WHEREAS, in relation to the reports cited above, a previous study¹ by the World Bank and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) noted that air pollution cost the Philippine economy \$2.8 billion in foregone labor output in 2013, which is equivalent to 0.45 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP);

WHEREAS, in Metro Manila alone, motor vehicles produce 1.029 tons of carbon monoxide, 118,524 tons of nitrogen oxide, and 6,616 tons of sulfur oxide;

WHEREAS, breathing the air in Quezon City for one hour and forty minutes is equivalent to smoking 2 cigarettes;

WHEREAS, the high amounts of indoor and outdoor air pollution may have played a role in the rise of respiratory diseases such as Acute Respiratory Infection, Tuberculosis, and Bronchitis in the top ten causes of morbidity in the Philippines²;

WHEREAS, the data cited above point to the need to consider air pollution as a major health concern;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the policy makers to consider and include environmental factors in the planning, implementation and assessment of health policy.

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the Senate Committees on Health and Demography and on Environment and Natural resources, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the implementation and possible amendment of Republic Act no. 8749, otherwise

¹ Talavera, C. "Air pollution deaths cost PH \$2.8B in 2013" *Manila Times* (09 September 2016). Retrieved from <http://www.manilatimes.net/air-pollution-deaths-cost-ph-2-8b-in-2013/284792/>

² Department of Health (DOH). Field Health Service Information System 2016 Annual Report. Retrieved from <https://www.doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/publications/FHSIS2016.pdf>

known as the "*Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999*", in light of the reported high levels of indoor and outdoor pollution in the country, their link to the rising morbidity and mortality rates due to respiratory-related diseases, and foregone economic productivity as a result thereof.

Adopted,


GRACE POE
G.P.