

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 939

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Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE(S)
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON
THE REPORTED IMPORTATION OF PLASTIC WASTE
FROM SOUTH KOREA

1 **WHEREAS**, a shipment from South Korea declared as “plastic
2 synthetic flakes” arrived at the Mindanao Container Terminal (MCT) in
3 Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental on board MV Affluent Ocean in July 2018¹;

4
5 **WHEREAS**, after a request for an alert order was issued on October
6 25, 2018 by the Bureau of Customs Region 10’s Intelligence and
7 Investigation Service, it was discovered only this November 2018 that the
8 shipment actually contained tons of plastic wastes, wood, and other
9 materials (the “South Korea trash”) instead of the declared plastic flakes²;

10
11 **WHEREAS**, *Section 1400 of Republic Act No. 10863* or the
12 *Customs Modernization and Tariff Act* heavily punishes misdeclaration or
13 misclassification of goods with 250% of the duty and tax due and when the
14 same is intentional or fraudulent, a 500% surcharge shall be due, with the
15 goods subject to seizure and without prejudice to fines or penalties being
16 imposed on the importer or person(s) who willfully participated in the
17 fraudulent act;

18
19 **WHEREAS**, the consignee of the South Korea trash is reportedly
20 Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corporation (“Verde Soko”), a company
21 with a recycling plant inside the PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate (PIE) located

¹ Jerusalem, Jigger. “Eco group wants plastic trash shipped back to S. Korea.” Philippine News Agency website. Retrieved from <http://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1053565>. Last accessed on November 12, 2018.

² *Ibid.*

1 in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, which is managed by PHIVIDEC
2 Industrial Authority (PIA),³ a government-owned and controlled
3 corporation;

4
5 **WHEREAS**, Verde Soko apparently has an existing memorandum
6 of agreement (MOU) with PIA for the “sorting and processing of plastics
7 for briquettes and plastic resin for production of plastic pallets”⁴;

8
9 **WHEREAS**, the South Korea trash were reportedly “approved by
10 the Philippine Embassy in South Korea before it was shipped to the
11 country”⁵;

12
13 **WHEREAS**, we are confronted with this South Korea trash issue
14 amidst the still unresolved Canada trash issue, for which the undersigned
15 filed *Proposed Senate Resolution No. 553* on December 4, 2017;

16
17 **WHEREAS**, the Philippines appears to be well in the path of the so-
18 called “global waste trade” and Congress has to act swiftly to prevent the
19 country from being a dumping site of the more advanced economies; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, protecting and advancing the right of the people to a
22 balanced and healthful ecology is a Constitutional duty and an
23 intergenerational responsibility;

24
25 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved,
26 that the Senate of the Philippines direct its appropriate committee(s) to
27 conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported importation of
28 plastic waste from South Korea, considering the earlier case of the Canada
29 trash per *Proposed Senate Resolution No. 553*, with the end in view of
30 preventing the Philippines from being a dumping site of the more advanced
31 economies in this so-called “global waste trade”.

Adopted,


AQUILINO “KOKO” PIMENTEL III

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*