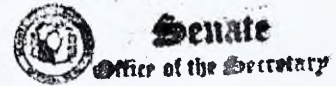


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

P.S. Res. No. 70

Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

RESOLUTION
URGING NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND
INSTRUMENTALITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO
EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS,
ESPECIALLY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9003, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE "ECOLOGICAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2000",
AND DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN
ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT OF ALL CONCERNED AGENCIES IN
RELATION TO THEIR COMPLIANCE THEREOF

WHEREAS, Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Constitution declares that, "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree No. 1151, which took effect in 1979, institutionalized the "right to a healthy environment" and established the Philippine Environmental Policy;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 192, dated June 10, 1987, affirmed the role of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the formulation and implementation of policies, guidelines, rules, and regulations relating to environmental management and pollution prevention and control;

WHEREAS, Republic Act (R.A.) No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", devolved some functions and responsibilities of the DENR, among other agencies, to local government units (LGUs), including those relating to solid waste disposal and environmental management;

WHEREAS, Section 26 of R.A. No. 7160 emphasizes the roles LGUs play in the maintenance of ecological balance in their respective communities by requiring national agencies and government-owned and controlled corporations to consult with

them in the planning and implementation of any project or program that may disrupt the local environment;

WHEREAS, R.A. No. 9003, otherwise known as the "*Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000*", aims to establish comprehensive and ecological solid waste management practices among LGUs to protect public health, promote environmental conservation, and ensure economic efficiency in natural resource use;

WHEREAS, Section 10 of R.A. No. 9003 places primary responsibility for the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of this Act on LGUs and mandates them to submit a ten (10)-year solid waste management plan for the efficient management of solid wastes and the reuse, recycling, and composting of wastes within their respective jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, several other laws, such as the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System, Marine Pollution Control Law, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Renewable Energy Act, Environmental Awareness and Education Act, Climate Change Act, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act, Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act, and Extended Producer Responsibility Act, which have institutionalized mechanisms to protect the environment, monitor implementation, or investigate violations thereof;

WHEREAS, the effective implementation of these environmental laws, including R.A. No. 9003, is significantly dependent on close consultation and coordination between national agencies and LGUs, as well as the full cooperation and strong commitment of all concerned agencies and instrumentalities;

WHEREAS, modeling by The Ocean Cleanup identified the Pasig River and 18 other Philippine rivers among the top 50 most polluting in the world, and also identified the Philippines as the largest plastic-polluting country, dumping an estimated 356,371 metric tons of plastic waste annually from 466 out of 1,656 of the world's rivers into the ocean;

WHEREAS, in a more recent study conducted in 2020 by the United Nations Environment Program, the Philippines was found to be Asia's fourth-largest generator of solid waste, generating up to 14.66 million tons of trash per year;

WHEREAS, there is a growing global consensus that the entire planet is facing an environmental crisis formed by the triple threat of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a co-sponsor of a Resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly, which will develop a legally binding international instrument on plastic pollution;

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon Congress, in the exercise of its oversight powers, to review the effective implementation of environmental laws and determine

the efficient use of the funds appropriated therefor, for the benefit of our generation and the generations to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, to urge national government agencies and instrumentalities and local government units to promote convergence of efforts and close consultation and coordination towards the effective implementation of environmental laws in light of the country's degrading ecosystems, rising rates of waste generation and pollution, and its contribution to the global climate crisis;

RESOLVED, FINALLY, to direct the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an environmental audit of compliance with existing environmental laws, across all relevant national agencies and local government units, with the end view of introducing measurable indicators and targets, encouraging accountability of all government officials, and ensuring an enhanced national monitoring and evaluation system for the implementation of these laws.

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA