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S E N A T E

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PRESENT STATE OF THE ILOILO RIVER WITH THE INTENTION OF FORMULATING A SUSTAINABLE ECOLOGICAL INITIATIVE AND STRATEGY TO PROTECT, SUSTAIN AND PRESERVE THE SAME

Whereas, Section 16 Article II of the 1987 Constitution states 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, the Iloilo River is the longest river in the province and passes through the city of Iloilo and flows from west to east;

Whereas, in the past years, the Iloilo River was very polluted making fishing impossible;

Whereas, other factors which contributed to the destruction of the river were illegal fishers, especially those who used fine mesh nets that damaged corals and trapped even small fries, and establishments and individuals who dumped their wastes into the river;

Whereas, in 2010, volunteers got together to work for the preservation and protection of the river;

Whereas, presently, the river has been cleaned and the fish have returned, mainly through the efforts of the joint campaign initiated by the city government and private groups to preserve and protect the fifteen (15) kilometer river, with a spawning area of fish and home to about seven hundred (700) species of mangrove trees¹;

Whereas, Iloilo River has a variety of fish species including "bulgan", "managat" (mangrove jack), "alimusan" (mudfish) and stingray;

Whereas, other government agencies are being asked to clear, clean and dredge the waterway to return the river to its old grandeur;

Whereas, the Department of Public Works are transferring dredging equipment to Iloilo to clear and clean the river;

Whereas, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for its part are coming up with a list of illegal structures to be removed in the area proximate to the river;


¹ "Volunteers help revive Iloilo River" by David Israel Sinay, Philippine Daily Inquirer, February 27, 2011

Whereas, the Philippine Ports Authority are likewise being asked to remove sunken vessels in the area that pose danger to navigation and make the river unsightly;

Whereas, the State should, by harnessing government resources through its appropriate agencies with the help of civil society, continue efforts in reviving and preserving Iloilo River not only for the benefit of the locality but also of the nation, being one of its environmental treasures;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the present state of the Iloilo River with the intention of formulating a sustainable ecological initiative and strategy to protect, sustain and preserve the same.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR
Senator