

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



'11 MAY 11 P2:13

SENATE
P. S. R. No. **464**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED TO PROPOSE AND IMPLEMENT ALTERNATIVE
MECHANISMS TO MINIMIZE AIR POLLUTION BROUGHT BY MOTOR VEHICLE
EMISSIONS AND TO PREVENT THE INCREASE OF RESPIRATORY AND
CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 mandates: "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, Republic Act No. 8749 also known as the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, Section 3c provides: "The State shall pursue a policy of balancing development and environmental protection. To achieve this end, the frame work for sustainable development shall be pursued. It shall be the policy of the State to focus primarily on pollution prevention rather than on control and provide for a comprehensive management program for air pollution";

WHEREAS, based on the 2 May 2011 article of the *Manila Bulletin*, air pollution continues to be a serious threat to the environment and the health of millions of Filipinos;

WHEREAS, according to various experts, the root cause of the poor quality of air in our atmosphere is the airborne particulate matter in urban cities and population centers; this roughly translate to the loss of millions of pesos every year due to environmental diseases;

WHEREAS, health records show that deaths caused by various forms of respiratory diseases run into scores of thousands a year, including those in far-flung barrios thought to be unaffected by air pollution;

WHEREAS, Metro Manila ranks high among urban centers exposed to this type of air pollution commonly known as soot, which consists of complex and varying mixtures of particles suspended in the air;

WHEREAS, particulate matter causes numerous and serious health problems associated with respiratory and cardiovascular ailments, oftentimes leading to premature deaths, asthma attacks and other ill health effects among urban residents;

WHEREAS, environmentalists have identified automotive transport as the leading and direct contributor to widespread air pollution in the country;

WHEREAS, statistics reveal that at least 7,000 public utility buses ply the 30-kilometer stretch of Epifanio delos Santos Ave. Caloocan City to Baclaran daily, which can absorb only 2,000 vehicles at any given time;

WHEREAS, motor vehicles using diesel fuel are tagged as the biggest source of polluted air because of its toxic substance content that proves hazardous to the environment and city inhabitants;

WHEREAS, among the toxic chemicals and substances emitted by diesel-powered vehicles are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, sulfur and benzene;

WHEREAS, their diesel exhaust produces particulate matter, a toxic air contaminant associated with lung cancer; particulate matters are generally said to be composed of soot or carbon formed during combustion, heavy hydrocarbons condensed or absorbed on the soot, and sulfates;

WHEREAS, there is a pressing need for concerted efforts by the government and the private sector in the implementation of laws and regulations to improve the air quality in this country;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the need to propose and implement alternative mechanisms to minimize air pollution brought by motor vehicle emissions and to prevent the increase of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/dpm