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P. S. Res. No. 1080

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER CONCERNED STATE AGENCIES THE IMMEDIATE REHABILITATION OF THE PASIG RIVER BEING THE MOST IMPORTANT NATURAL WATER SYSTEM IN METROPOLITAN MANILA AND THE INSIGNIA OF THE COUNTRY'S ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Whereas, Article II Section 16 of the Philippine Constitution anchors the importance of attaining a healthful environment for the advancement of the economy and the society as stated, “[t]he 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 Pasig River has drawn its significance to the heart of Manila since its early beginnings;

Whereas, aptly, the River forms to be the most important natural water system in Metro Manila as it traverses four cities and two municipalities, appropriately Manila, Mandaluyong, Makati and Pasig and municipalities Taguig and Taytay;

Whereas, winding through the most densely populated areas in the country's National Capital Region (NCR), the river links Manila Bay in the west with Laguna Lake in the east;

Whereas, while deemed as an essential water asset which largely benefits the residents of Manila, the vitality and productivity of the River started to deteriorate as far back as the 1930's noticeably when the natural cycle of fish migration from Laguna Lake toward the Pasig River declined;

Whereas, pollution and the increase of population in the areas surrounding the River may have escalated the deterioration of the River, evidently that between the 1950s to 1970s, there was a decline in the usual activities perpetuated in the River;

Whereas, during this time, reports can attest to the drop in bathing activities in the Pasig, also that people no longer used the river for washing clothes and the manifested decline of the Ferry boat transport that carried passengers across the River;

Whereas, the condition of the River continues to worsen that in the 1970's it began to give off an offensive smell which directly halted all fishing activities in the Pasig River;

Whereas, recent studies consider the Pasig River as biologically inactive thus evident in the dark, musky color of the River, the huge lumps of floating garbage clumping on the water's surface and the presence of sunken boats and abandoned barges that are left on the River making navigation difficult and hazardous;

Whereas, worsening pollution and the deterioration of the Pasig River pose threats to the health of all humans and living creatures around it since that research of health authorities claim that the river contains extremely high coliform content that triggers the emergence of various diseases;

Whereas, the influx of industrialization and urbanization in Metro Manila welcomed the emergence of factories, commercial establishments, and colonies of improvised shanties lined along the stretches of the river bank;

Whereas, these attributably transformed the Pasig River into a sewage and industrial effluents depot sacrificing the quality of the water and sustenance of life forms;

Whereas, attempts to revive the Pasig River began in 1991 when DANIDA, a Danish aid agency expressed its desire to improve the water quality and strategize actions to revive the ecological balance of the river;

Whereas, the rehabilitation of Pasig River was strongly manifested in Presidential Decrees 274 and 281 which pertained to the preservation, beautification, improvement and gainful utilization of the Pasig River to enhance its development for socio-economic purposes and the creation of Pasig River Development Council (PRDC), whose job to oversee the implementation of the Pasig River Development (PRDP), respectively;

Whereas, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) joined in the cause of reviving the Pasig River by adapting *Industrial Ecowatch* as part of the compliance monitoring system as the program rates industries in its participation in preventing pollution;

Whereas, at present, many non-government organizations (NGOs) and players in the industry / business sectors engage in environmental improvement activities and advance self-monitoring as pioneered by Administrative Order No. 2003-14 by the DENR, which ushered in the creation of the Environmental Partnership Program aimed to support industry self regulation towards improve environmental performance;

Whereas, the rehabilitation of the Pasig River should immediately be carried out, consistent with significant legislations and programs of rehabilitation launched by previous governments and organizations, aiming for the revival of the River for the benefit not only of the residents of Metro Manila but of the country as well; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to recommend to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other concerned state agencies the immediate rehabilitation of the Pasig River as the most important natural water system in Metropolitan Manila and the insignia of the country's ecological resources.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR