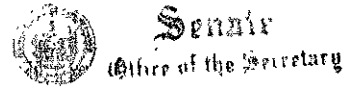


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



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SENATE
P.S.R. No. 277

RECEIVED BY: ji

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A
15-MEGAWATT COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT IN PALAWAN

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides: "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 17 September 2013 issue of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* reported, in an article entitled "Palawan coal plant meets protests anew," that protests mounted by residents of Narra town in southern Palawan against a proposed 15-megawatt coal-fired power plant has forced a company contracted by the local cooperative to supply additional power to relocate the project to the adjoining town of Aborlan;

WHEREAS, the municipal council of Aborlan began deliberations on the proposal of DMCI Powers Corporation to find the alternative site despite renewed protests by officials of a state university and the local Catholic Church; Aborlan is 25 kilometers from Narra and 69 kilometers south of Puerto Princesa City;

WHEREAS, Dr. Lita Sopsop, dean of Western Philippines University, told local officials that the proposed site in Sitio Marikit, Barangay San Juan "is close to the fish sanctuary declared by the local government on Malunao Island, which hosts the coral reefs of Aborlan";

WHEREAS, Consunji-led DMCI has begun conducting an information drive in Aborlan to gather support for the project and has decided to forego initial plans to set up

the plant in Barangay Panacan in Narra after failing to secure the endorsement of the municipality, despite having received a provisional endorsement from the provincial level clearinghouse, the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and the provincial board;

WHEREAS, the construction of the coal-fired power plant should be investigated because of the power plant's possible deleterious effect on the environment and on the health and livelihood of the fisherfolk of Aborlan, Narra, and nearby residents of Palawan;

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 proposed construction of a 15-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Palawan.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
RP

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