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**SENATE**

P. S. R. No. 294

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Introduced by **SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MANDATE, POWERS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY (PRA) UNDER ITS CHARTER, RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND OTHER ISSUANCES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF INTRODUCING REFORMS, REVISIONS, AND AMENDMENTS. IF NECESSARY, TO ENSURE THAT THE PRA POWERS AND FUNCTIONS ARE BEING EXERCISED CONSISTENT WITH PUBLIC INTEREST.**

**WHEREAS**, the Public Estates Authority or PEA was established on February 4, 1977 by virtue of PD No. 1084 enacted into law by President Marcos in the exercise of his then legislative powers;

**WHEREAS**, PEA was then created to provide a coordinated, economical and efficient administration of lands, especially reclaimed lands, belonging to, managed and/or operated by the government, with the object of maximizing their utilization and hastening their development consistent with the public interest. In particular, PEA was created to created to reclaim land, including foreshore and submerged areas, by dredging, filling or other means, or to acquire reclaimed land;

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order No. 525, issued on February 14, 1979, provides that "All reclamation projects shall be approved by the President upon recommendation of the PEA, and shall be undertaken by the PEA or through a proper contract executed by it with any person or entity; Provided, that, reclamation projects of any national government agency or entity authorized under its charter shall be undertaken in consultation with the PEA upon approval of the President";

**WHEREAS**, on October 26, 2004, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo issued Executive Order 380, which transformed PEA into the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) and mandated PRA to perform all the powers and functions of the PEA relating to reclamation activities;

**WHEREAS**, on June 24, 2006, President Arroyo issued Executive Order No. 543 delegating to PRA the power of the President to approve reclamation projects as provided under Executive Order No. 525 enacted in 1979.

**WHEREAS**, on February 25, 2011, the PRA Board of Directors approved the National Reclamation Plan (NRP) under PRA Board Resolution No. 4161 covering a total of 102 reclamation projects over a total area of 38,272 hectares within Manila Bay, Visayas, Mindanao and other locations, broken down as follows:

Sector	No. of Projects	Area (in hectares)
Manila Bay Sector	38	26,234
Visayan Sector	7	6,000
Southern Mindanao Sector	7	238
Other Sector	50	5,800
Total	102	38,272

**WHEREAS**, PRA's NRP and the multiple issues attached to reclamation has gained so much alarm and protests from various sectors;

**WHEREAS**, in a People's Summit on Reclamation held in October 2012 at UP Diliman attended by experts from relevant fields, the participants adopted a call for a moratorium on reclamation projects under the NRP;

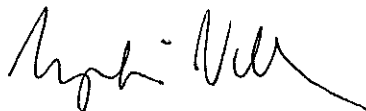
**WHEREAS**, it was alleged that the NRP was adopted without a genuine stakeholder consultations, in gross violation of the right of citizens to participate in decision making, without rigorous scientific assessment of the environmental risks and impacts by reclamation projects, and without transparency in concerned government agencies;

**WHEREAS**, along with the foregoing concerns, there are sectors critically questioning the powers and mandate of PRA vis-à-vis the extensive scale of the NRP it has approved;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for the PRA to adopt policies and issue rules and regulations that ensure that the public is made aware of its on-going and planned reclamation projects and that will effectively and transparently address and resolve public concerns regarding their impact and effects on livelihood, environment and ecology.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to direct the Senate Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, for the purpose of reviewing the mandate, powers, and responsibilities of the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) under its charter, rules and regulations, and other issuances, with the end in view of introducing reforms, revisions, or amendments, in order to ensure that the PRA powers and functions are being exercised consistent with or not contrary to public interest.

Adopted,



**CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**