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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 615

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF MANILA BAY SIX YEARS AFTER THE SUPREME COURT ISSUED THE WRIT OF CONTINUING MANDAMUS DIRECTING 11 EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO RESTORE ITS WATERS TO CLASS "B" LEVEL

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Article II of the Philippine Constitution affirms 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, Manila Bay is a significant historical landmark that used to be known for its rich marine life and the various contact recreation activities conducted therein, yet it is also considered as one of the most polluted bays in the world, in fact, independent global campaign organization Greenpeace described it as "a reeking cesspool of sludge, human sewage, industrial waste and garbage";

WHEREAS, on 18 December 2008, the Supreme Court issued a Writ of Continuing Mandamus in the case of *Metropolitan Manila Development Authority v. Concerned Residents of Manila Bay*, a suit commenced against eleven (11) executive departments and agencies for their failure to perform their tasks as exacted by the nature of their respective offices and statutorily mandated duties;

WHEREAS, the Writ of Continuing Mandamus issued by the Supreme Court directed the respondent executive departments and agencies "to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters to make them fit for swimming, skin-diving, and other forms of contact recreation" by the year 2011;

WHEREAS, three years after the deadline set by the Supreme Court in the Writ of Continuing Mandamus, the Manila Bay Coordinating Office (MBCO) noted that there has been little improvement and the levels of coliform, a bacteria found in the fecal matter of all warm-blooded animals, including humans, in the waters of Manila Bay continue to be significantly above the normal coliform level for the bay's water class;

WHEREAS, the normal coliform level for Manila Bay's water class should only be 1,000 MPN (most probable number per 100 milliliters) but the actual coliform level of our embattled bay runs in the millions, in fact water sample collected in 2010 registered an alarming coliform level of 3,336,333 MPN;

WHEREAS, there is a need to inquire into the state of Manila Bay to identify potential legislative measures that will prevent its further degradation and will ensure that the executive departments and agencies concerned with the clean up thereof are fully empowered to fulfill their mandate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, That the Philippine Senate directs the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and other appropriate senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the status of Manila Bay six years after the Supreme Court has issued the Writ of Continuing Mandamus directing 11 executive departments and agencies to restore its waters to class "B" level.

Adopted,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator