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

RECEIVED BY: _____

SENATE

P.S. Resolution No. 64

Introduced by SENATOR LUISA "LOI" P. EJERCITO ESTRADA

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE ALLEGED
USE OF TAMPERED PUMPS BY GASOLINE STATIONS

WHEREAS, the Constitution provides:

Art. 16, Sec. 9, The State shall protect consumers from malpractices and from substandard or hazardous products.

WHEREAS, *The Manila Standard*, in an article entitled "Gas Stations Shortchanging Customers", dated 31 August 2004, page 1, reported that "The Quezon City government yesterday penalized 44 gasoline stations in the city for cheating motorists with tampered gasoline pumps. Twelve of the 44 are Shell stations, 11 Caltex and 10 Sea Oil";

WHEREAS, the newspaper claimed that "Quezon City treasurer Victor Endriga said that his office made surprise inspections of the 119 registered gasoline stations in various parts of the city from the first week of July until Aug.27 . . . 60 other stations, operating without permits, will undergo calibration tests until October";

WHEREAS, the broadsheet stated that "Using 10-liter buckets to determine the accuracy of the gasoline pumps, the task force found that each motorist lost 10 to 80 milliliters for every 10 liters of gasoline bought from the stations with tampered pumps. Erring operators are fined P400 for the first offense, a second offense will be fined P800, a third will mean closure of the station";

WHEREAS, *The Manila Standard* reported that the list of gas stations found with tampered pumps are those belonging to Shell, Caltex, Sea Oil, Petron, Total Gas, Uni-oil, Flying V, City Oil and Metro Subic;

WHEREAS, this alleged short selling of gasoline and petroleum products in Quezon city, not to mention its possible replication in other gasoline stations all over the country, if proven true, is a despicable act committed against the poor consumers, who, to paraphrase the article, not only has to shoulder the spiraling cost of these products, but also has to bear the added ignominy of being cheated at the pumps;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Energy, to investigate, in aid of legislation, the alleged use of tampered pumps by gasoline stations.

Adopted.


LUISA "LOI" P. EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator