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Senate
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SENATE
P. S. Res No. 313

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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED TO PROMOTE ZERO
TOURISM WASTE POLICY

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides 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, according to Atty. Brigido Dulay in his column in the Manila Times in 2015, he said that high levels of coliform and algae growth are infesting the waters of Boracay Island¹;

WHEREAS, he added that the massive influx of tourists is putting immense pressure on the island's inadequate sewerage system²;

WHEREAS, the increasing presence of algae in Boracay every year is an effect of the upsurge in human population and insufficiency of adequate waste treatment facilities according to some experts³;

WHEREAS, a study on Boracay conducted from 2010 to 2015 involving Japanese and Filipino scientists as part of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) project called Coastal Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptive Management (CECAM) showed that Boracay's coral reef ecosystem has been seriously degraded by tourism-related activities⁴;

WHEREAS, direct discharge of untreated waste water near the shore brings about poor water quality level that consequently results in frequent algal blooms and coral reef deterioration⁵;

¹ The Manila Times Website, Boracay; On the edge of disaster, <http://www.manilatimes.net/boracay-on-the-edge-of-disaster/168264/>

² Ibid.

³ GMA News Website, Tourists disappointed with algae on Boracay beach, <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/602002/lifestyle/travel/tourists-disappointed-with-algae-on-boracay-beach>

⁴ Japan International Cooperation Agency Website, JICA, Japanese, Filipino scientists' project backs conservation of 'highly endangered' Boracay ecosystem, <https://www.jica.go.jp/philippine/english/office/topics/news/150528.html>

⁵ Ibid.

WHEREAS, the reported alarming levels of coliform bacteria in Boracay indicates that the waters are contaminated by human and animal waste⁶;

WHEREAS, according to Department of Tourism Secretary, Wanda Corazon Teo, there will be more tourists in the country in 2017⁷;

WHEREAS, with the influx of tourists in mind the amount of waste resulting from tourism is also expected to be higher;


WHEREAS, according to Takahiro Morita, JICA Senior Representative, Tourism is an important economic driver in the Philippines. By protecting marine resources, we are also helping sustain the tourism industry, and jobs creation in the country⁸;

WHEREAS, despite the presence of current environmental laws and measures, the threats of inefficient waste management on the environment, especially on tourist destinations in the country still persists;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to conduct an inquiry to the matter to update and reform environmental laws in line with the current environmental conditions facing the country;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED to direct the proper Senate committees in aid of legislation on the need to promote zero tourism waste policy.

Adopted,


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

⁶ Supra [Citation 1]

⁷ Cebu Daily News, Inquirer Website, Tourist Surge in 2017 seen, <http://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/116361/tourist-surge-2017-seen>

⁸ Supra [Citation 4]