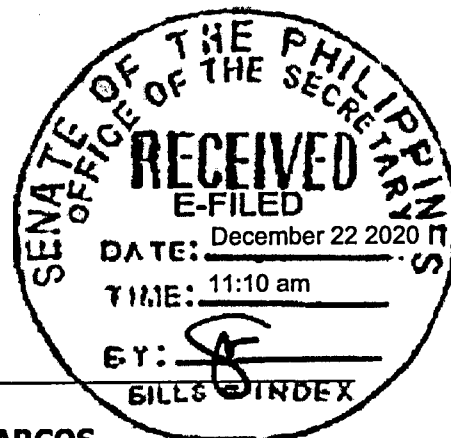


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 601



Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

**RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE
PROLIFERATION OF COAL POWER PLANTS IN THE COUNTRY DESPITE THE
PHILIPPINES BEING A SIGNATORY TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND THE
PRESIDENT'S CALL FOR DRASTIC CUTS IN CARBON EMISSIONS**

WHEREAS, Article II, Sec. 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "*The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people*" while Section 16 of the same Article states 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, in 2017, the Paris Agreement was signed by Pres. Rodrigo Roa Duterte and ratified by the Senate. Set within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement was designed to strengthen the global response to the urgent threat of climate change by holding the increase in global average temperature below 2° above pre-industrial levels and was signed by 196 countries;

WHEREAS, in line with the Paris Agreement, the Philippines pledged to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by about 70% relative to its business-as-usual (BAU) scenario of 2000 to 2030, provided that it receives sufficient aid. The Independent Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) of the Philippines is one of the most ambitious pledges put forward in the wake of the 2016 Paris Agreement, dwarfing the emission reduction targets of its neighbors and high-income industrialized countries;

WHEREAS, according to its INDC document, the Philippines intends to achieve the goal by reducing emissions from energy generation, waste management, transportation, forestry activities and its industries;

WHEREAS, in April 2019, the President called for a "*collective action*" against Climate Change on the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in China;

WHEREAS, in November 2019, the President further reinforced the need for the United Nations (UN) to impose sanctions on violations of the Paris Agreement;

WHEREAS, on 23 September 2020, the President discussed climate change in his speech on the UN's General Assembly (75th session) by calling other countries to honor the commitments on the Paris Agreement;

WHEREAS, during the onslaught of typhoon Ulysses last 12 November 2020, the President called for developed countries to lead deep and drastic cuts in carbon emissions;

WHEREAS, countries like the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, and even India are announcing plans to retire coal power plants to cut carbon footprint;

WHEREAS, Pope Francis even made commitments for a "*net zero carbon emission*" by 2050 in the Pope's address to the UN's High-Level Virtual Climate Ambition Summit last 12 December 2020;

WHEREAS, according to Climate Analytics, an international organization of climate change experts, coal is the most carbon intensive fossil fuel and phasing it out is a key step to achieve the emissions reductions needed to limit global warming to 1.5°C, as enshrined in the Paris Agreement;

WHEREAS, Climate Analytics points out that most emissions from coal are in the electricity sector and technologies that can replace coal are already available, making phase out a relatively cheap and easy option to reduce emissions. Phasing out coal from the electricity sector is the single most important step to get in line with 1.5°C. In addition, global coal use in electricity generation must fall by 80% below 2010 levels by 2030 and needs to be phased out globally by 2040 to meet the commitments made in Paris;

WHEREAS, despite the circumstances abovementioned, the Philippines still added 2,314 megawatts of coal capacity from 2017 to 2019, bringing the total generating capacity of coal from 8,049 megawatts to 10,417 megawatts, or an increase of 29.4% in two years after signing the Paris Agreement;

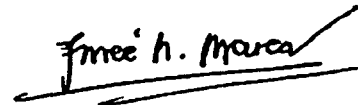
WHEREAS, such growth is expected to continue given the total of 11,711 megawatts of coal projects in various stages of development in the pipeline;

WHEREAS, the country's power generation mix in 2019 was dominated by coal with a share of 54.6%. Without changes to the power mix, a report by the Fitch Solutions estimated that coal would have dominated the mix by 60.2% in 2029;

WHEREAS, while the Department of Energy (DOE) has announced a moratorium on the construction of greenfield coal power plants, the Department has not yet released an official list of projects that will be affected by the said moratorium. Moreover, the policy does not cover applications that have already been endorsed or have secured the needed permits;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, urging the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the proliferation of coal power plants in the country despite the Philippines being a signatory of the Paris Agreement and the President's call for drastic cuts in carbon emissions to meet the Philippines' commitments.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Imee R. Marcos". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with two parallel horizontal lines.

IMEE R. MARCOS