


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS)
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION)

5 OCT -4 P5:29

SENATE
Resolution No. 347

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator M.A. Madrigal

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPACT OF THE OPERATION OF THE NAVOTAS CONTROLLED DISPOSAL FACILITY TO THE WELL-BEING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN RESIDING IN THE AFFECTED AND NEIGHBORING AREAS

WHEREAS, the local government of Navotas established the Navotas Controlled Disposal Facility (the "Facility") in purported response to the worsening garbage crisis besetting Metro Manila, as authorized by Republic Act No. 9030 (The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000), which allows local government units to use "controlled disposal facilities";

WHEREAS, the local government converted into such facility a 10.9-hectare fishpond in Barangay Tanza situated near the river that separates Navotas and Obando, Bulacan that is being operated by the Philippine Ecological System Corporation ("PHILECO") starting early 2002 after it was granted a Notice to Proceed in October 2001 by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources ("DENR"), through the National Solid Waste Management Commission;

WHEREAS, an estimated 700 metric tons of garbage from Navotas and the City of Manila is dumped on the Facility everyday, with the garbage from Manila transported from Pier 18 to Barangay Tanza by barges passing through the river between the towns of Navotas and Obando, Bulacan;

WHEREAS, the residents of Obando, Bulacan have complained of the stench that the Facility emits to the entire town as well as its harmful effects on marine life, while community leaders and fisherfolk organizations have similarly organized themselves to bring to the attention of the DENR the destructive impact of the Facility on the people's livelihood and the environment, particularly on women and children;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Council for Aqua Marine Research Development of the Department of Science and Technology has confirmed the findings of Japanese water treatment experts that drinking water from artesian wells in Obando, Bulacan contain *high levels of arsenic*;

WHEREAS, the Japanese water treatment experts have also tested water samples from the affected fishponds adjacent to the Binuangan River and have found the samples to contain high concentration of *ammonium, nitrate, nitrite and phosphate*;

WHEREAS, such contaminants are proven to be especially harmful to women and children not only in Navotas but also in Obando, Bulacan since these areas are linked by a common river system thus making them more vulnerable than the general population ;

WHEREAS, there is a need to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the status of operations of the Facility in the face of alarming reports that such continued operations pose grave danger to the well-being of women and children;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the impact of the operation of the Navotas Controlled Disposal facility to the well-being of women and children residing in the affected and neighboring areas

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M.A. Madrigal', written over a horizontal line.

M.A. MADRIGAL