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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE
PSR No. 178

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE RECENT LANDFILL CONTROVERSY INVOLVING THE MUNICIPALITY OF RODRIGUEZ, PROVINCE OF RIZAL, WHICH THREATENED TO CAUSE GARBAGE CRISIS IN METRO MANILA

Whereas, in the year 2000, Congress enacted Republic Act No. 9003 otherwise known as the Ecological Waste Management Act which seeks to adopt a systematic, comprehensive and ecological solid waste management program;

Whereas, Section 3, letter ff of the same Act defines sanitary landfill as a waste disposal site designed, constructed, operated and maintained in a manner that exerts engineering control over a significant potential environment impacts arising from the development ;

Whereas, Section 17 of the same Act provides that open dump sites shall not be allowed as final disposal sites. If an open dump site is existing within the city or municipality, the Local Government Solid Waste Management Plan shall make provisions for its closure or eventual phase out within five years from the effectivity of this Act. As an alternative, sanitary landfill sites shall be developed and operated as a final disposal site for solid and, eventually, residual wastes of a municipality or city or a cluster of municipality and/or cities;

Whereas, Section 11 of the same law provides that the Provincial Solid Waste Management Board, chaired by the governor of each province, shall develop a provincial solid waste management plan from the submitted solid waste management plans of the respective city and municipal solid waste management boards created under the same Act, which shall reflect the general program of action and initiatives of the provincial government and support the various initiatives of its component cities and municipalities;

Whereas, Section 12 of the same law provides that each city or municipality shall form a City or Municipal Waste Management Board that shall prepare, submit and implement a Plan for the safe and sanitary management of solid waste generated in areas under their geographic and political coverage;

Whereas, there are specific and stringent guidelines as defined by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order

(AO) No.6 and National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) Resolution No. 6 regarding final disposal facilities or landfills;

Whereas, newspaper reports reveal that on 09 October 2007, Rizal Governor Casimiro Ynares III ordered the closure of the 14 hectare landfill situated in Rodriguez Rizal, in reaction to the findings made by the contractor International Solid Waste Integrated Management Specialist that the landfill was already full. Governor Ynares ;

Whereas, Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo countered that joint inspection conducted by the National Solid Waste Management Commission Secretariat and the local government of Rodriguez on October 1 and 4, 2007 at the Montalban Solid Waste Development Facility (MSWDF) has certified that there is an adequate amount of unfilled area to accommodate the solid waste from Metro Manila and other towns of Rizal with an estimated lifespan of two years and two months as of October 2007;

Whereas, the provincial governor ordered the opening of an adjacent 19-hectare landfill, but was not initially used due to the opposition of the municipal government, maintaining that the newly opened facility lacked the necessary permits;

Whereas, due to this landfill row, there existed an undeniable threat to the health and sanitation of millions of residents of Metro Manila, a region that is said to generate 8 million metric tons of solid waste, for lack of immediate alternative on where to dump forty-percent of its garbage, previously dumped at the Rodriguez land fill;

Whereas, according to an article published in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources official website dated February 14, 2006, only 264 out of 734 LGUs have complied with R.A. No. 9003, particularly Section 37, regarding conversion of open dumps to sanitary landfills;

Whereas, there is a need to look into the existing solid waste management systems implemented in Metro Manila to address in the short term and in the long term the necessity of managing solid wastes to prevent possible dangers posed by the mismanagement and improper disposal of solid wastes to our country's health, sanitation and the environment;

Whereas, likewise, there is a necessity to inquire into the state of the implementation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act with the end in view of strengthening the shared responsibility and accountability of the provincial, city and municipal governments to fully implement the law and prevent political and personal differences from threatening our nation's health and sanitation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the recent landfill controversy involving the municipality of Rodriguez, Province of Rizal, which threatened to cause garbage crisis in Metro Manila.

Adopted,


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator