

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

8 MAY 14 2008

SENATE  
P.S.R. No. 396

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN  
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DETERIORATION OF  
THE LAGUNA LAKE AND ITS POSSIBLE RAMIFICATION ON THE  
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 12, Section 2, provides that: "All lands of the public domain, waters, minerals, coal, petroleum, and other mineral oils, all forces of potential energy, fisheries, forests or timber, wildlife, flora and fauna, and other natural resources are owned by the State. xxx The exploration, development, and utilization of natural resources shall be under the full control and supervision of the State";

WHEREAS, according to the 5 May 2008 article in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) has asked the government officials of communities surrounding the body of water to curb the construction of houses on the shoreline since the soil is too weak and that the lives of the residents may be at risk;

WHEREAS, the article stated that the LLDA has been talking to local officials about the proliferation of subdivisions and communities on the lake shoreline, specifically those in the cities of Taguig, Marikina and Pasig, as well as in Rizal province;

WHEREAS, several aerial photographs taken by the agency on various reclamation sites and construction projects being carried out by local governments surrounding the lake depicted the continuous and increasing number of families squatting on the shoreline of the lake and its canals which not only pose great health hazards, but also put human lives in danger;

WHEREAS, the LLDA claimed that the area is also prone to liquefaction where the ground is not stable enough, exposing the residents to danger because of the weak soil which could be bury them alive;

WHEREAS, the article also reported that the agency is now coordinating with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the National Housing Authority (NHA) and other concerned government agencies for the relocation of illegal settlers along the shoreline as well as the removal of illegal fish pens;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that all public and private sectors concerned should address the dismal condition of the Laguna Lake in order to prevent its further deterioration;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the deterioration of the Laguna Lake and its possible ramification on the surrounding communities.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/cdr