

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

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE
P.S.R. No. 125

RECEIVED BY: *R*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT
AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DEPLORABLE STATE OF
HYGIENE AND SANITATION IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, in a study entitled "Economic Impact of Sanitation in the Philippines," which was funded by the World Bank's Water and Sanitation Program and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), it was claimed that 27.5 million Filipinos have no sanitary toilets in their homes, and 13 million Filipinos do not have access to clean water:

WHEREAS, the study noted that only 3.3% of Filipino houses were connected to sewers leading to treatment facilities, and that the rest of the dirty household water, or about 95% of the liquid waste, end up polluting rivers and seas;

WHEREAS, according to the study, as a result of inadequate and substandard waste facilities, 38 million people are stricken with diarrhea every year, leading to annual deaths of 11,338 from the ailment, or 31 persons a day, most of whom are children;

WHEREAS, officials from the Department of Health and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources disclosed that "water-borne diseases cost the government P77.8 billion per year in terms of premature deaths, health-care expenses, lost wages and adverse impact on the environment";

WHEREAS, even the country's potential to attract tourists is heavily affected by poor sanitation, since tourists stay away from holiday destinations that they suspect to be unsanitary; improving sanitation could help the country raise its revenues from tourism by about \$40 million and help achieve its target of five million tourists by 2010;

WHEREAS, according to the World Bank and USAID, the alarming problem on hygiene and sanitation has serious impacts on health, quality of water for households and commercial users, fisheries, groundwater extraction, and crops;

WHEREAS, such poor hygiene and sanitation facilities and practices continue to be detrimental to the lives and health of Filipinos, destroy the environment, and cost the country billions of pesos in lost work and foregone tourism opportunities;

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 deplorable state of hygiene and sanitation in the country.

Adopted,

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Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO