FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session

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SENATE P.S. Res. No. 138

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Introduced By Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN IMMEDIATE INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SELECTIVE EMISSION TESTING OF VEHICLES AND THE QUALITY OF AIR IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, Article II Section 16 of the Constitution provides 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, although Metro Manila air is improving, it is still below standards and is still considered unsafe, with EDSA being the most polluted area in the Metropolis;

WHEREAS, there is selective emission testing of vehicles whereby buses are being tested by the Land Transportation Office (LTO) of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) while private vehicles and other public utility vehicles are being tested in different Private Emission Testing Centers (PETCs);

WHEREAS, reports have sprouted that the LTO has been remiss in its duties in conducting emission testing of buses as there are allegations that buses are not physically subjected to the tests but merely pay a certain amount in exchange for the issuance of the vehicle registration;

WHEREAS, reports also give evidence to the falsification of the LTO's database whereby photos of emission tests have been edited and reused to appear as though vehicles have been inspected;

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 21 of the Clean Air Act of 1999 dictates the emission standards for motor vehicles and mandates the DOTC to inspect and monitor the emissions of motor vehicles;

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 22 of the Clean Air Act of 1999 mandates that "No motor vehicle registration (MVR) shall be issued unless such motor vehicle passes the emission testing requirement promulgated" by the law;

WHEREAS, there appears to be an apparent lapse in the LTO's fulfillment of its mandate under said law, which lessens the impact emission testing should have in improving the condition of air quality in the metropolis;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the, Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an immediate inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the selective emission testing of vehicles and the quality of air in the country.

Adopted,

LOREN-LEGARDA Senator