

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

9 FEB 10 AM 1:17

S E N A T E

RECEIVED BY

P. S. Res. No. 884

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROPOSED LANDFILL IN THE FORESTED PART OF SAN MATEO, RIZAL, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION ITS IMPLICATIONS ON THE ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY AND HEALTH OF CITIZENS AND THE COUNTRY'S POLICY ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

*Whereas*, Republic Act 9003, otherwise known as the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000" aims to promote a systematic and comprehensive ecological solid waste management program, which shall ensure the protection of public health and environment, together with utilizing environmentally-sound methods that maximize the utilization of valuable resources and encourage resource conservation and recovery, with reference to Article 1. Section 2. (a) and (b) of R.A. 9003;

*Whereas*, former President Fidel Ramos signed Proclamation No. 635 on August 28, 1995, granting permission that 71.6 hectares of the Marikina Watershed be utilized as a sanitary landfill to address the garbage crisis in Metro Manila;

*Whereas*, a number of concerned citizens conversely questioned the landfill proposal in Barangay Pintong Bukawe, Rizal province in 1998 after the confirmation by The Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau that the landfill site was to be constructed within the Marikina Watershed Reservation which is unconstitutional under R.A. 9003, being a hazard to public health and environment;

*Whereas*, citizens of the province of Rizal together with environment organizations also protested against the proposed project for the lack of consultation on the citizens regarding the construction and operation of the said landfill;

*Whereas*, the Supreme Court decision on December 13, 2005 ordered the permanent closure of the San Mateo Landfill located in Barangay Pintong Bukawe in Rizal province, citing the landfill's unfavorable effects to both the environment and to the health of residents nearby;

*Whereas*, on January 10, 2009, Department Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Lito Atienza ordered the investigation of the planned new landfill project in San Mateo, Rizal subsequent to reports that it will be constructed on an environmentally critical area within the forested part of the province;

**Whereas**, Katherine Adraneda in her PhilStar article dated January 11, 2009 reported that DENR Secretary Atienza had received information that the new landfill proponents deceived the government by presenting “misrepresented documents” to the DENR in the interest of being granted an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) together with all the necessary permits to allow the construction and operation of the new landfill project;

**Whereas**, DJ Yap in a Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) article dated January 10, 2009 reported the exposé of Jing Husin, a concerned citizen and a leader of the protest movement, citing that the San Mateo Sanitary Landfill and Development Corp. (SMSLDC), which was formed on September 11, 2007 will handle the construction of the proposed landfill;

**Whereas**, Husin disclosed in an e-mail sent to the PDI that SMSLDC was able to secure an ECC from the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) which is under the DENR on November 24, 2008 by apparently presenting documents signifying their intent to construct a dump in Sitio Mabilog na Bato, Barangay Pintong Bukawe in Rizal;

**Whereas**, incongruent with the plan presented by SMSLDC to the EMB, it was reported that the 19-hectares initial phase of the project was actually built on a private property in Barangay Guinayang, which is several kilometers away from the permitted area in Barangay Pintong Bukawe;

**Whereas**, the press statement by Clemente Bautista Jr., national coordinator of the Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan-PNE), confirmed that the landfill is to be constructed not in the permitted site in Sitio Mabilog na Bato, Barangay Pintong Bukawe, but is actually planned to be expanded up to 200-hectares in Barangays Maly and Guinayang, which is a protected forest area;

**Whereas**, Barangays Maly and Guinayang are two of five areas in San Mateo that were declared as watershed areas by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 1636 which was signed by then President Ferdinand Marcos, proclaiming 4.775 square kilometers of San Mateo Rizal as a Protected Forest Area under the National Integrated Protection Areas System (NIPAS) on April 1977;

**Whereas**, environmental groups led by the Ecological Waste Coalition (EcoWaste) and Greenpeace are ardent in opposing the proposed landfill citing that it is otherwise planned to be built in a critical area directly linked to the Marikina watershed which drains into the Laguna Lake;

**Whereas**, Greenpeace Southeast Asia released a statement to strongly oppose the landfill construction addressing that the actual site of the dumpsite construction within the Marikina watershed poses serious pollution threats to the Marikina River which feeds into Laguna Lake that will thereby contaminate our air, soil and water;

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and other appropriate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the proposed landfill in the forested part of San Mateo, Rizal, taking into consideration its implications on the environment, economy and health of the citizens and the country's policy on sustainable development.

Adopted,

  
**MANNY VILLAR**  
Senator