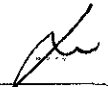


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
9 APR -2 P1:30

SENATE
P.S.R. No. 964

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, THE REPORT THAT THE PHILIPPINES IS THE SECOND MAJOR
OCEAN POLLUTER IN THE WORLD

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides: 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, *The Philippine Daily Inquirer's* 14 March 2009 article entitled "Group: RP is Major Ocean Polluter", claimed that the Philippines ranks second in the world for most trash recovered from its oceans";

WHEREAS, the US-based Ocean Conservancy reported that 1,355,236 items of trash were recovered from the country's shorelines, ocean surface and underwater during the International Coastal Cleanup conducted by the group in September 2008, which involved nearly 400,000 volunteers around the world;

WHEREAS, the results of the cleanup were presented in a report by the group titled "A Rising Tide of Ocean Debris", which was released on March 10 and available on the group's website;

WHEREAS, it was reported that topping the list of trash items were "plastic bags (679,957 pieces), paper bags (253,013) and food wrappers (103,226); also recovered were 38,394 pieces of clothing and shoes, 55,814 tobacco-related items including cigarette butts (34,154), lighters and wrappers, and 11,077 diapers";

WHEREAS, the United States reportedly topped the list of countries with the most trash recovered, with 3,945,855 items; while in third place was Costa Rica with 1,017,621 items;

WHEREAS, the Ocean Conservancy allegedly said that it collected 11.4 million pieces of trash from 6,485 sites in 104 countries, including the Philippines.

WHEREAS, the report said that the disheartening amount of trash afloat in the sea, affects the earth's life support system, the ocean, and all the living things in it, and that marine debris is more than a blemish on nature, it is a potential threat to our food supply, to tourism and economic activity, to marine wildlife and ecosystems, to our *personal health and even relates to the impacts of climate change*;

WHEREAS, because of the study, local waste and pollution watchdog EcoWaste Coalition reportedly called on the public to help restore the health of Philippine waters;

WHEREAS, on World Consumer Rights Day on March 15, 2009, the coalition called for more awareness, responsibility and action to save the oceans and waterways, particularly from plastic garbage;

WHEREAS, the coalition reportedly urged the local and national authorities to fully enforce Republic Act No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, to stop the dumping of trash in the canals that eventually find their way into the marine ecosystem;

WHEREAS, to prevent garbage from entering the marine environment, the coalition reportedly urged consumers to adopt basic practices in ecological waste management, including waste prevention, reduction, separation at source, recycling reuse and composting;

WHEREAS, in 2006, the group together with Greenpeace allegedly conducted a joint discards survey of Manila Bay which showed that 76 percent of the garbage in the bay was made of plastic and 51 percent was plastic bags;

WHEREAS, there is a need to urge the Department of Environment and Natural Resource, the National Solid Waste Management Commission and other concerned government agencies to do something about the trash in the ocean, and a more urgent need of an effective implementation of current laws and regulations, not to mention the possible crafting of new environmental laws;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committees to investigate, in aid of legislation, the report that the Philippines is the second major ocean polluter in the world.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/cdr