
INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR RECEIVED BY 

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS THAT IMPINGE ON LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF FORMULATING POLICIES THAT AIM TO CREATE A BALANCE BETWEEN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

Whereas, Earth Day Network Philippines (EDNP), an environmental group, very recently protested the issuance of an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) to commence dredging in Palawan citing that it will undermine its status as a protected area and as biodiversity haven;

Whereas, according to Elisea Gozun of EDNP, the dredging project involves the deepening of the area surrounding the port to facilitate the docking of the RORO (roll-on, roll-off) inter-island ferry system;

Whereas, dredging is an excavation activity or operation usually carried out at least partly underwater, in shallow seas or fresh water areas with the purpose of gathering up bottom sediments and disposing of them at a different location and that it is a technique often used to keep waterways navigable impacts (source: Wikipedia, en.wikipedia.org);

Whereas, there are scientific studies indicating that while dredging has significantly been utilized in mining activities, it has resulted to disturbance in aquatic ecosystems, often with adverse consequences;

Whereas, similarly, a planned coal exploration and mining operation in Catanduanes is under protest citing the long-term negative effects it poses on the environment;

Whereas, without strong policies that place equal emphasis on pursuing economic growth and environmental protection, our country's natural resources could deteriorate quickly and Filipinos will suffer;

Whereas, every economy must address environmental preservation and maintain ecological balance in pursuing its economic development objectives, which is the essence of sustainable development: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, directing the Senate Committees on Environment and Natural Resources, Local Government and other appropriate committees, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on economic development programs that impinge on local environmental protection and management, with the objective of formulating policies that aim to create a balance between economic growth and ecological sustainability.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR
Senator