

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P.S.R. No. 70

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED PROJECTED POPULATION
INCREASE IN METRO MANILA IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK TO ADDRESS THE IMPENDING DILEMMA

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 9 provides: "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

WHEREAS, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) report "Managing Asian Cities" released in 2008, around 2.6 million more Filipinos are projected to be added to the already bursting-at-the-seams population of Metro Manila by 2020;

WHEREAS, the report projected the population growth rate in Metro Manila to hit around 24 percent from 2006 to 2020; this will also add to the expectation that the Philippines will allegedly have an urban population of 34.8 million by 2030, or a 67.1-percent increase from 2005, and account for 3.2 percent of the country's population by that time;

WHEREAS, Metro Manila was identified in the report as one of the six Asian cities whose population is already equal to the size of the population in some countries; based on the 2005 data, the report alleged that Metro Manila already had a population of 10.68 million;

WHEREAS, the other five cities are Shanghai in China with 12.66 million people; Mumbai in India, 18.34 million; Jakarta in Indonesia, 13.19 million; Bangkok in Thailand, 6.6 million; and Tokyo in Japan, 35.33 million;

WHEREAS, the ADB report observed that neither markets nor governments provide the right incentives for sustainable development in these areas;

WHEREAS, failure to provide these incentives could result in the proliferation of unserviced informal settlements, development that leaves existing residents worse off, encroachment on environmental areas, and even more pollution;

WHEREAS, the increase in the number of Filipinos residing in the metropolis, and consequently, the number of the Philippines' urban population, is also seen to create or worsen the current problems of the city on slum dwelling, pollution and solid-waste management, among others;

WHEREAS, in terms of pollution, the increase in urbanization will encourage the building of roads and highways which, in turn, would increase vehicle ownership and worsen air pollution;

WHEREAS, the pressing issue is not so much a lack of understanding by governments, but their priorities and efforts which would determine outcomes;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to foster sustainable development for Asian cities like Metro Manila since failure to do so will not only endanger the sustainability of living in these cities but also the planet itself;

WHEREAS, these initiatives may include expanding projects that cater to low income housing that will not only remove slum dwellers, but also help increase the chances of cities to combat the growing threat of poverty and displacement;

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 projected population increase in the Metro in order to establish a sustainable development framework to address the impending dilemma.

Adopted;


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
MS