

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. 152

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 WORSENING AIR QUALITY DUE TO MAN-MADE
EMISSIONS ACCORDING TO A STUDY BY THE EUROPEAN GEOSCIENCES UNION

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 European Geosciences Union (EGU) through a press release said that most of the world's population will be subject to degraded air quality in 2050 if man-made emissions continue under the present condition globally;

WHEREAS, the statement was based on a study published in the *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, an open access journal of the EGU;

WHEREAS, the research centered on the impact of man-made emissions on air quality, assuming past emission trends continue and that no additional climate change and air pollution reduction measures are implemented, and also considered pollutants released through human activity, as well as those occurring naturally such as desert dust, sea spray, or volcanic emissions;

WHEREAS, the study is said to be the first to factor in all five major air pollutants known to negatively impact human health: PM2.5, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone, and carbon monoxide.

WHEREAS, the results of the study showed that eastern China, northern India, the Middle East, and North Africa are projected to have the world's poorest air quality in the future, while the effect of anthropogenic pollution emissions are predicted to be most harmful in East and South Asia, where air pollution is projected to triple compared to current levels;

WHEREAS, EGU officials recommended that further legislation to control and reduce man-made emissions is needed to avoid hot-spots of elevated air pollution;

WHEREAS, EGU officials warned that it might be less effective to implement emission-reduction measures due to strong growth in activities in particular sectors of regions with economic growth; while in countries suffering from the economic downturn, implementing expensive air-quality measures could prove difficult in coming years;

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization reported last year that urban outdoor air pollution causes 1.3 million estimated deaths per year worldwide, and that air pollution as a major health risk worsens with increasing industrial activity;

WHEREAS, legislation should complement the recent upturn in the national economy with safeguards that will ensure the air quality for the next few decades through formulation of new regulation and strict implementation of environmental laws, particularly with regard to the chemicals from the man-made emissions mentioned in the EGU study;

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 worsening air quality due to man-made emissions according to a study by the European Geosciences Union.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
ccr.

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