

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1195

RECEIVED BY: fu

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT WATER IN BORACAY HAS HIGH LEVELS
OF COLIFORM

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides: "The State shall protect and promote 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* on its 20 February 2015 reported that the monitored level of coliform in Boracay has prompted a warning from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);

WHEREAS, the DENR reportedly warned commercial establishments in Boracay against discharging waste directly to the sea after it found high levels of coliform, a type of bacteria found in human wastes, in the waters of the world-renowned resort island;

WHEREAS, the DENR-EMB Western Visayas office claimed that coliform bacteria levels in a drainage outlet that empties into the sea in Sitio Bulabog in Boracay was at 47,460 most probable number per 100 millimeter (mpn/ml), exceeding the threshold of 1,000 mpn/ml for waters to be declared for swimming;

WHEREAS, the DENR-EMB attributed the high level of coliform to domestic waste coming from residential and commercial establishments that failed to connect to sewer lines which go directly to drainage canals and empty into the coastal water;

WHEREAS, some commercial establishments and residences are allegedly still not connected to sewerage lines operated by Boracay Island Water Company (BIWC), a joint venture of Manila Water and the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority under;

WHEREAS, the DENR-EMB reportedly recommended the completion of the drainage system and putting the drainage outlet farther out into the sea;


WHEREAS, it also asked the local government to strictly apply the no discharge permit, no business permit policy to compel establishments to connect to the BIWC sewerage system;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for government to maintain cleanliness and safety of the waters of Boracay, which contributes immensely to the country's tourism revenues;

WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, should intensify existing legislation aimed at mitigating the environmental impact of tourism activities;

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 report that water in Boracay has high levels of coliform.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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