

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



'16 JUL 18 P5:55

SENATE
P. S. Res. No. 14

RECEIVED BY: *J.S.*

Introduced by SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO LEAD THE CONDUCT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT OF RELEVANT NATIONAL AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IN RELATION TO THEIR COMPLIANCE TO EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS IN LIGHT OF THE CONTINUED ECOSYSTEMS DECLINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION WITH THE END VIEW OF INTRODUCING MEASURABLE INDICATORS AND TARGETS AND ENCOURAGING PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY OF ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

WHEREAS, Article II Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution provides that 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, Executive Order No. 192 dated June 10, 1987 which reorganized the former Department of Environment, Energy and Natural Resources into the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, affirms the role of the agency in the formulation and implementation of policies, guidelines, rules and regulations relating to environmental management and pollution prevention and control;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, provides that the President through the Department of Interior and Local Government shall exercise general supervision over local government units (LGUs) to ensure that their acts are within the scope of their prescribed powers and functions;

WHEREAS, Section 26 of the Local Government Code emphasizes the significant role played by LGUs in the maintenance of ecological balance in their respective communities by requiring national agencies and government-owned and controlled corporations to consult with them in the planning and implementation of any project or program that may cause pollution, climatic change, depletion of non-renewable resources, loss of crop land, rangeland, or forest cover, and extinction of animal or plant species;

WHEREAS, as part of its commitment to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)—otherwise known as the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992, the Philippines released the Philippine Agenda 21 (PA 21) which “lays down the mix of strategies that integrate the parameters in the country’s overall development strategy,

identifies the intervention areas (or Action Agenda) – from the national to the regional level – with the corresponding implementing platforms and plans”;

WHEREAS, apart from property rights reform and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems, the general strategies to be adopted by the country in its pursuit of sustainable development shall include the following: the strengthening of residuals management in industry (pollution control), the strengthening of citizen’s participation and constituency building, and the promotion of environmental education;

WHEREAS, to operationalize the implementation of PA 21, various environmental laws, such as the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System, Marine Pollution Control Law, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, Renewable Energy Act, Environmental Awareness and Education Act, Climate Change Act, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act, the law creating the People’s Survival Fund, have been passed in a span of two decades, and their effective implementation significantly dependent on close consultation and coordination between national agencies and local government units;

WHEREAS, despite years of implementation, the state of the Philippine environment remains at risk with its ecosystems in a continuous decline—with nearly 90 percent of coral reefs are under threat and only 7.17 million hectares of forest cover remaining, even as it records gains in pollution control in the urban areas;

WHEREAS, the effective and faithful implementation of environmental laws will aid the Philippines in achieving its targets under the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations on environmental sustainability;

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon Congress to determine the effective use of public funds in the implementation of these laws which will redound to the benefit of the next generations;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to lead the conduct of an environmental audit of relevant national agencies and local government units in relation to their compliance to existing environmental laws in light of the continued ecosystems decline and environmental pollution with the end view of introducing measurable indicators and targets and encouraging public accountability of all government officials.

Adopted,


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator