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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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P.S. Res. No. 307

Introduced by SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

RESOLUTION

URGING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON GARBAGE IMPORTED INTO THE COUNTRY, WITH THE GOAL OF FORMULATING POLICY INTERVENTIONS TO RESOLVE GARBAGE IMPORTATION ISSUES

- 1 **WHEREAS**, in 2014, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) discovered illegal garbage imports
2 from Canada that were previously delivered to the country on June to August of 2013;¹
3 **WHEREAS**, despite a court ruling in 2016 ordering the return of the garbage imports
4 at the expense of the importer, it took until May 2019 for the Canadian government
5 to fully repatriate its garbage imports, six years after it was first transported to the
6 country;
7 **WHEREAS**, later in 2018, it was revealed that an estimated 6,300 metric tons of
8 garbage imports from South Korea were illegal and misdeclared as hazard-free plastic
9 wastes;

¹ Bautista, R. (2019, May 31). Philippines sends trash back to Canada after Duterte escalates row. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-philippines-canada-waste/philippines-sends-trash-back-to-canada-after-duterte-escalates-row-idUSKCN1T10BQ>

1 **WHEREAS**, in a December 2018 meeting between the Philippines and South Korea,
2 the latter pledged to return the imported garbage by June 2019, yet no further
3 developments were issued by both governments on the return of the garbage imports
4 up until now;

5 **WHEREAS**, expert data shows that the country saw huge increases in garbage
6 imports, from 4,267 tons in 2017 to 11,900 tons in 2018, primarily belonging to
7 developed countries;²

8 **WHEREAS**, these garbage imports posed serious environmental and health hazards
9 to their affected local communities, as was the case with toxic waste juice formation
10 of Canadian garbage imports in Manila and the toxic smoke due to the methane fire
11 caught by the South Korean garbage imports in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental;

12 **WHEREAS**, these issues challenge the full and effective implementation of existing
13 local and national policies on waste management and environmental protection;

14 **WHEREAS**, the Philippines, as a member of the United Nations, is committed to attain
15 the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
16 Development through the formulation and implementation of relevant national
17 development plans and policies;

18 **WHEREAS**, in particular, SDGs 11 and 12 called for (11) establishing sustainable cities
19 and communities and (12) promoting responsible consumption and production in order
20 to improve the management of solid wastes towards better and universal access to
21 safe and healthy spaces;

22 **WHEREAS**, similar with environmental policies, such garbage importation issues
23 undermine the capacity of the country to attain the aims of said SDGs, as they result
24 to unsustainable waste management practices, primarily of developed countries, often
25 leading to adverse environmental and health impacts to their affected communities;

² Mogato, A. (n.d.). How to keep imported waste out of the Philippines. Retrieved from
<https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/iq/232547-keep-imported-waste-out-philippines>

- 1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** to urge the
- 2 appropriate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on possible policy
- 3 interventions to resolve current and future garbage importation issues.

Adopted,

Pia S. Cayetano
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