

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC.)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

5 AUG 15 P3:32

SENATE
P, S R. No. 309

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago.

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE
HIGH INCIDENCE OF NOISE AND AIR POLLUTION IN PHILIPPINE CITIES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article II, section 16, states 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, Republic Act No. 8749, otherwise known as The Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, mandates that "Local Government units (LGUs) shall share the responsibility in the management and maintenance of air quality within their territorial jurisdiction; LGUs shall implement air quality standards set by the Board in areas within their jurisdiction,"

WHEREAS, a recent study conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in three sampling sites revealed that the noise level in Pagadian City was above tolerable level and the air quality was very unhealthy;

WHEREAS, based on the seven trials conducted in all three sites, the average noise level was 80 decibels (db); even in residential areas, the noise was above the standards of 55 db and 65 db during daytime;

WHEREAS, the city's air quality had a total suspended particulates (TSP) of 439 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m3) in all three sites;

WHEREAS, this figure exceeded the National Ambient Air Quality Standard set at 230 ug/m3 for a 24-hour exposure;

WHEREAS, TSPs are small solid and liquid particles suspended in the air; they include dust, smoke, metallic and mineral particles, soot, mist, and acid fumes;

WHEREAS, the study attributed the noise and air pollution in Pagadian City to motor vehicles, specifically the tricycles and motorcycles plying the major routes of the city, motorized tricycles are the principal mode of transportation around the city;

WHEREAS, according to Dr. Edgar Legazpi, environment committee chair of the Zamboanga del Sur Medical Society (ZSMS), the noise generated by tricycles was due to the modification of the muffling system of the engines; the original engines were not noisy but because the drivers wanted to load more passengers, mufflers are changed for the tricycles to run even though they are overloaded,

WHEREAS, some operators even change the silencer of the motor engines to boost their power so that the tricycles could maneuver in upslope roads; noise and air pollution could also be attributed to old tricycles which are still allowed to ply in the city;

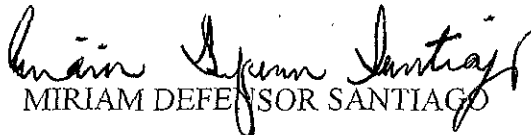
WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), noise pollution can affect human health and well-being in a number of ways, including annoyance reaction, sleep disturbance, interference with communication, performance effects, effects on social behaviour, and hearing loss;

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Health (DOH), pollution emitted by motor vehicles accounts for 80 percent of the overall pollution level in the country, the DOH also stated that TSPs, even in small doses, affect breathing and cause eye irritation and serious lung problems such as lung cancer;

WHEREAS, the government has the duty to protect the people from the harmful effects of noise and air pollution by implementing timely measures to minimize the incidence of pollution;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the reported high incidence of noise and air pollution in Philippine cities.

Approved


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/dpm