

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

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 312

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE LACK OF PROPER SEWERAGE
FACILITIES IN METRO MANILA

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9275, otherwise known as the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, mandates that: "The State shall pursue a policy of economic growth in a manner consistent with the protection, preservation and revival of the quality of our fresh, brackish and marine waters. To achieve this end, the framework for sustainable development shall be pursued. As such, it shall be the policy of the State.

- a) To streamline processes and procedures in the prevention, control and abatement of pollution of the country's water resources,
- b) To promote environmental strategies, use of appropriate economic instruments and of control mechanisms for the protection of water resources;
- c) To formulate a holistic national program of water quality management that recognizes that water quality management issues cannot be separated from concerns about water sources and ecological protection, water supply, public health and quality of life;
- d) To formulate an integrated water quality management framework through proper delegation and effective coordination of functions and activities";

WHEREAS, according to the Environmental Management Bureau, more than 11 million residents of Metro Manila, or around 85% of the population in the metropolis, do not have access to proper sewerage facilities;

WHEREAS, this places Metro Manila as the second worst Asian city in terms of sewer connection, worse off than even the underdeveloped city of Dhaka in Bangladesh,

WHEREAS, a 2003 World Bank report showed that Metro Manila was next to Jakarta among nine Asian cities in terms of lack of access to pipe sewerage,

WHEREAS, only 12% to 15% of the population in Metro Manila are connected to sewer lines managed by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and Manila Water Co.; the other 85% of the population discharge their waste water directly to septic tanks that do not undergo treatment for years,

WHEREAS, according to EMB director Lolibeth Medrano, waste water needs to be sucked out from the septic tanks and treated every five years or else it gets too thick

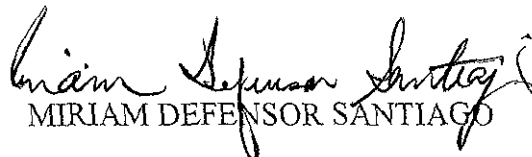
for treatment, this requirement is usually overlooked by households who have individual septic tanks;

WHEREAS, water suppliers are mandated to treat waste water regularly because this service is included in the sewerage charge, which is incorporated in the water bill; however, water suppliers usually clean up septic tanks only when they receive requests to do so,

WHEREAS, household waste water is a major source of pollution due to the lack of proper sewerage and treatment facilities.

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Works to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the lack of proper sewerage facilities in Metro Manila.

Approved.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/dpm