

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

8 MAY 14 2008

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 397

RECEIVED BY: [Signature]

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE FORMULATION OF PROACTIVE AND  
SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO THE COUNTRY'S GARBAGE WOES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 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, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, in its declaration of policies provides that: "The State [shall] adopt a systematic, comprehensive and ecological solid waste management program which shall (a) Ensure the protection of the public health and environment; (b) Utilize environmentally-sound methods that maximize the utilization of valuable resources and encourage resource conservation and recovery" among others;

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Star*, in its 8 May 2008 issue reported that the Ecological Waste Coalition (EcoWaste) challenged Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Secretary Lito Atienza to enforce the six month ultimatum he gave all local government units to shut down open dump sites in their areas in compliance with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000;

WHEREAS, EcoWaste suggested that Secretary Atienza should put the ultimatum into writing, such as through an administrative order, although with a warning that the warning should not turn the Philippines into an open country for quick technological fixes that can further harm the people and the environment;

WHEREAS, EcoWaste vice-chairman Roy Alvarez asserted that the ecological solid waste management plan should lay emphasis on community education and implementation of proactive waste prevention through the establishment of people-driven ecology centers or materials recovery facilities;

WHEREAS, EcoWaste expressed the concern over the tendency of some government officials to equate dump closure with the setting up of landfills, or "glorified dumps," and repackaged waste burners ;

WHEREAS, instead of finding communities that can be sacrificed to bear the brunt of wasteful consumption, local government units and the National Solid Waste Commission should focus on holistic waste prevention, minimization and recovery policies and programs, including the adoption of clean methods for addressing the residuals that will not release harmful environmental pollutants;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the government sees to the strict implementation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 and speedily address the issues concerning proper environment care and management;

WHEREAS, it is the government's responsibility to create parallel policies and invest in real solutions to the waste crisis;

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 formulation of proactive and sustainable solutions to the country's garbage woes.

Adopted,

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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