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SENATE

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RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NUMBER OF FILIPINOS WITHOUT ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND PROPER SANITATION, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PRIORITIZING PROGRAMS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS TO ADDRESS WATER QUALITY AND SANITATION ISSUES

Whereas, recognizing that nearly 900 million people lack access to clean water (and where 3.575 million people die each year from water-borne diseases as a result), and more than 2.6 billion people lack access to basic sanitation, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution in late July, signed by 122 members, declaring that clean water is a fundamental human right;

Whereas, Art. 1, Sec. 2 (c) of the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 states, "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.";

Whereas, within the next fifty years, the world population will increase by another 40 to 50 %, which, coupled with industrialization and urbanization - will result in an increasing demand for water and will have serious consequences on the environment;¹

Whereas, some 17 million Filipinos still do not have access to safe water while 25 percent of the population does not have "individual type of sanitation facilities";²

Whereas, especially in urban areas, water quality does not meet the standards set by the national government, and waterborne diseases remain a severe public health concern in the country where about 4,200 people die each year due to contaminated drinking water;³

Whereas, experts have also predicted that by year 2025, water availability deficit would take place in several river basins such as in Pampanga and Agno, in Pasig-Laguna, in Cagayan Valley, all other regions in Luzon, in Jalaur and Ilog Hilabangan, and in the island of Cebu in Visayas;⁴

Whereas, water pollution, climate change, and inadequate management of water resources are expected to aggravate the problem of clean water availability and access;

¹ <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=25>

² <http://www.philstar.com/Article.aspx?articleId=636661&publicationSubCategoryId=63>

³ World Bank (December 2005), Philippines Meeting Infrastructure Challenges

⁴ Philippine Environment Monitor 2003, <http://www.philippinestoday.net/index.php?module=article&view=634>

Whereas, there is pressing need to address the challenge of raising the political will of governments to implement water-related commitments: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Public Services, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported number of Filipinos without access to clean water and proper sanitation, with the end in view of prioritizing programs at the national and local levels to address water quality and sanitation issues.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR
Senator