

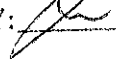


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 372

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
AND OTHER CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO SUBMIT A STATUS
REPORT ON THE IMMEDIATE CLEANUP AND RESTORATION OF MANILA BAY
IN COMPLIANCE WITH A SUPREME COURT RULING TO UPGRADE ITS
WATER QUALITY

Whereas, Article II, Sec. 16 of our Philippine Constitution states, “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 Manila Bay with its semi-enclosed estuary facing the South China Sea, represents a vital national asset, providing a source of food, livelihood, employment, recreation, to an estimated 23 million Filipinos and a major source of economic benefit for the country;¹

Whereas, Manila Bay is considered one of the best natural harbors in Southeast Asia;

Whereas, overexploitation of resources, illegal and destructive fishing, habitat destruction, pollution, siltation and sedimentation, uncontrolled development and the conflicting use of limited available resources cause pressures on the Bay;

Whereas, in December 2008, the Supreme Court issued a “*continuing mandamus*” ordering 12 government agencies, including the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Metro Manila Development Authority and other local government units in the watershed of the Manila Bay, to upgrade its water quality reclassification to Class SB to make it safe for swimming, skin-diving and other forms of contact recreation;

Whereas, the heads of government agencies identified in the decision are required to submit to the Court a quarterly progressive report of the activities undertaken by their office;

Whereas, at present, Manila Bay’s waters are classified as Class SC, which means it is only fit for recreational activities such as boating;

Whereas, the same Supreme Court decision also ordered the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Law, the installation of sewerage systems and the removal of squatters along canals and riverbanks that feed into the Manila Bay;

¹ Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA) <http://www.wepa-db.net/policies/measures/background/philippines/manilabay.htm>

Whereas, the sustainability of the Bay and its diverse ecosystem is however continually threatened by a variety of land and sea-based human activities, which contribute to the decline in its environmental quality: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other concerned government agencies to submit a status report on the immediate cleanup and restoration of Manila Bay in compliance with a Supreme Court ruling to upgrade its water quality.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
Senator