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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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Senate
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SENATE
Senate Resolution No. 216

RECEIVED BY: ji

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO LEAD THE CONDUCT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT OF THE PERFORMANCE OF RELEVANT NATIONAL AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IN RELATION TO THEIR ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND COMPLIANCE GUIDELINES IN THE LIGHT OF CONTINUED ECOSYSTEMS DECLINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION WITH THE END VIEW OF INTRODUCING BASIS FOR IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND INTRODUCING MEASURABLE INDICATORS AND TARGETS TO ENSURE PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY OF ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE ENTITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS

WHEREAS, Article II Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution 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, Executive Order No. 192 dated June 10, 1987 which reorganized the then Department of Environment, Energy and Natural Resources into the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, affirms the role of the agency in the formulation and implementation of policies, guidelines, rules and regulations relating to environmental management and pollution prevention and control;

WHEREAS, Section 26 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, emphasizes the significant role played by local government units in the maintenance of ecological balance in their respective communities by requiring national agencies and government-owned and controlled corporations to consult with them in the planning and implementation of any project or program that may cause pollution, climatic

change, depletion of non-renewable resources, loss of crop land, rangeland, or forest cover, and extinction of animal or plant species;

WHEREAS, as part of its commitment to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the Philippines adopted the Philippine Agenda 21 (PA 21) as "the national blueprint for pursuing socio-economic development that is ecologically sustainable";

WHEREAS, in pursuit of the provision of the Constitution, various environmental laws, such as the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System, Marine Pollution Control Law, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, Renewable Energy Act, Environmental Awareness and Education Act, Climate Change Act, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act, and the Act Creating the People's Survival Fund, have been passed, the effective implementation of which is vital to the country's sustainable growth and development;

WHEREAS, part of the sustainable development strategies of the country include the strengthening of residuals management in industry (pollution control), the strengthening of citizen's participation and constituency building, and the promotion of environmental education;

WHEREAS, despite the policies and laws adopted, the state of the Philippine environment continues to be on the decline as illustrated by the Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that forest area in the country has declined from 12 million hectares in 1960 to only about 5.7 million hectares, and the UNEP World Atlas of Coral Reefs which reports that 97% of reefs in the Philippines are under threat;

WHEREAS, heavy rainfall brings about massive and destructive flooding in many parts of the country, in large part due to clogged drainages and waterways, and linked to the low compliance rate among local government units (LGUs) in implementing solid waste management (SWM) plans as shown in the 2010-2012 Socioeconomic Report of the National Economic and Development Authority which states that only nine out of the 16 cities and one municipality that comprise Metro Manila have submitted complete SWM plans and at the national level, only 414 LGUs, corresponding to 25.71 percent of the 1,610 cities and municipalities nationwide;

WHEREAS, the continued decline of the state of the environment and its ecology system is one of the greatest threats to the people's well-being;

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon Congress to conduct an environmental audit to identify areas of environmental policy reform, institute metrics to

ensure accountability, and promote the efficient use of public funds in the implementation of these laws;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Senate Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources to lead in the conduct of an environmental audit covering the performance of relevant national agencies and local government units in relation to their enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and compliance guidelines in the light of the continued ecosystems decline and environmental degradation, with the end view of introducing basis for improving environmental policies and management and introducing measurable indicators and targets to ensure public accountability of public officials and private entities and stakeholders.

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA
Senator