



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 553

Introduced by **Representative Francisco Jose F. Matugas II**

**RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO
PROHIBIT OR REGULATE THE USE OF PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' SOUTH LOUNGE IN ORDER
TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVE WATER**

WHEREAS, the Philippines is one of the greatest contributors to the world's plastic problem;

WHEREAS, in a report released by Ocean Conservatory, it was revealed that over half of land-based-plastic-waste leakage in the world originates from just five (5) countries, one of them being the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Metro Manila alone generates roughly 560,000 metric tons of plastic waste each year with a plastic-waste density of 900 metric tons per square kilometer;

WHEREAS, access to safe and potable water is likewise a big problem facing the country;

WHEREAS, according to water.org, out of 105 million Filipinos, nearly seven (7) million rely on unimproved, unsafe and unsustainable water sources and more than twenty-four (24) million lack access to improved sanitation;

WHEREAS, according to the WHO, around 1 in 10 people in the Philippines still do not have access to improved water sources;

WHEREAS, during the summer months this year, a water crisis hit Metro Manila and many residents experienced weak to no water supply with estimates of up to six (6) million people having been affected by the water shortage;

WHEREAS, according to the WHO, inadequate and intermittent water supply in Metro Manila and in other parts of the country can have serious health consequences;

WHEREAS, concessionaires and vendors in the House of Representatives complex still sell water in plastic bottles and offices therein still procure the same;

WHEREAS, in particular, the South Lounge. serves bottled water to House representatives and their guests;

WHEREAS, by constructive estimates, around five hundred (500) bottled water are consumed every day at the South Lounge from morning till the end of session, from Monday to Wednesday equivalent to about 1,500 bottles per week or 6,000 bottles per month or approximately 50,000 bottled water per year;

WHEREAS, water is also wasted as the contents of the bottled water are not all consumed, and it is estimated that around 10,000 liters per year, at the minimum, are wasted because of this;

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives must be more conscious of the harmful effects of plastic water bottle to the environment and must be a role-model for other government offices in helping save the environment;


NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that plastic bottled water is hereby prohibited in the South Lounge of the House of Representatives;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that in the alternative, the caterer or concessionaire in the South Lounge will be required to provide water dispensers with glasses or paper cups or in the alternative, members of the House may bring their own water containers;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the caterer or concessionaire will only be allowed to serve water in plastic bottles if the manufacturer of said bottled water has a procedure for collecting and recycling the same;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that the House of Representatives shall study the feasibility of adopting this measure for the entire House of Representatives complex.

Adopted,


FRANCISCO JOSE F. MATUGAS II
Surigao del Norte, First District
(Siargao Island)