

Republic of the Philippines HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 415



Introduced by MAGSASAKA Party-List Representative ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT

A RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR AN IMMEDIATE INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED POINT SOURCE POLLUTION IN COASTAL AND MARINE WATERS IN MUNICIPALITIES OF LIAN AND NASUGBU, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS

WHEREAS, Article XII, Section 2 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "The State shall protect the nation's marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea, and exclusive economic zone, and reserve its use and enjoyment exclusively to Filipino citizens";

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WHEREAS, Chapter I, Article I, Section 2, of the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 provides that "The State shall pursue a policy of economic growth in a manner consistent with the protection, preservation and revival of the quality of our fresh, brackish and marine waters. To achieve this end, the framework for sustainable development shall be pursued";

WHEREAS, Chapter I, Article I, Section 2, paragraph (z), subparagraph (aa) of the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 further provides the definition of point source as "Any identifiable source of pollution with specific point of discharge into a particular water body";

WHEREAS, Chapter I, Article I, Section 2, paragraph (a) of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 provides that "The State to adopt a systematic, comprehensive and ecological solid waste management program which shall ensure the protection of the public health and environment";

WHEREAS, MAGSASAKA Party-List have received a report from concerned citizens of Lian, Batangas complaining about the stinking odor, change in color, and death of small fishes on nearby waters of Barangay Natipuan and Bucana, Municipality of Nasugbu, Province of Batangas and other surrounding barangays in Municipalities of Lian and Nasugbu;

WHEREAS, the report included series of screenshots and videos from a Facebook group, "Lian Town Tanungan ng Bayan" showing posts from citizens calling out concerned officials and agencies to investigate the source of wastewater polluting beach resorts including Puenta Fuego Resort, San Diego Resort, and Lumaniag Resort and the cause of death of aquatic animals across the area;

WHEREAS, the citizens claimed that the waste possibly came from factories of Consolidated Distillers Inc. in Nasugbu and Absolut Chemicals Inc. in Lian, Batangas;

WHEREAS, citizens further claim that local government units are not taking enough actions to prevent the aggravation of the situation;

WHEREAS, aside from the environmental consequences, the livelihood and health of nearby communities in the said polluted water bodies are at risk and of serious concern;

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the government to take all immediate and necessary actions to protect our marine resources as well as the health and livelihood of its citizens;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives conducts an immediate inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the said areas, in coordination with local government units and agencies concerned, to verify the alleged point source pollution and implement necessary actions in accordance with the law.

Adopted,

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ARGEL JOSÉPH T. CABATBAT

MAGSASAKA Party-list