Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session  

House Resolution Number 1120  

Introduced by HON. ALETA C. SUAREZ  

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION  
BY THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON  
THE PLAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
(DENR) REGARDING THE SEGREGATION, COLLECTION, TRANSPORT, AND DIS-  
POSAL OF USED PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FROM HOSPITALS  
AND HOUSEHOLDS  

WHEREAS, one of the fundamental policies of the State is to protect and advance the right  
of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature,  
as provided in the 1987 Constitution;  

WHEREAS, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Dis-  
eases (IATF-EID) issued Resolution No. 18 last 01 April 2020 which requires the wearing of face  
masks and other protective equipment in public places by residents in areas under the Enhanced  
Community Quarantine (ECQ) in order to prevent local transmission of the coronavirus disease  
(COVID-19) in Luzon;  

WHEREAS, pursuant to the above resolution of the IATF-EID, the Department of Interior  
and Local Government (DILG) issued Memorandum Circular No. 2020-071 last 09 April 2020  
mandating local government units (LGUs) to comply with and monitor the mandatory wearing of  
face masks and other protective equipment in public places and encouraged LGUs outside Luzon to  
adopt the same policy as a precautionary measure against local transmission of COVID-19 in areas  
not under ECQ;  

WHEREAS, the required use face masks and other protective equipment in public places  
led to the increase in the demand for disposable face masks and the subsequent increase in the vol-
ume of medical wastes generated by households around the country, in addition to the medical wastes already produced by hospitals;

WHEREAS, according to a report of the Asian Development Bank, it is estimated that Metro Manila alone produces an additional 280 metric tons, or 280,000 kilograms, of medical waste per day during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;

WHEREAS, according to a 2017 report of the Senate Economic Planning Office (SEPO), around 85 percent of solid wastes are collected nationwide, with the remaining uncollected waste usually ending up in rivers, esteros, and other bodies of water;

WHEREAS, the leaking of uncollected wastes to the rivers and esteros further pollutes major bodies of water and causes the clogging of drainage systems in the cities and municipalities, which may be aggravated by the rainy season;

WHEREAS, in the Philippines, around 74 percent of plastics that leak to the ocean are from waste that has already been collected, according to a 2018 report of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF);

WHEREAS, environmental organizations, including the EcoWaste Coalition, are calling for the IATF-EID to enforce proper disposal of face masks to avoid public health risks associated to the improper disposal of used face masks and its detrimental effects to marine life;

WHEREAS, the EcoWaste Coalition observed the presence of soiled disposable masks, rubbing alcohol and hand sanitizer bottles, and other single-use plastics in Port Area, Manila and along the coast of Barangay Muzon in Rosario, Cavite last 30 July 2020;

WHEREAS, the DOH issued its Health Care Waste Management Manual containing detailed procedures on the collection, handling, storage, transport, treatment, and disposal of health

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3 https://www.panda.org/knowledge_hub/where_we_work/coraltriangle/?329831/The-scourge-of-single-use-plastic-in-the-Philippines
5 https://www.facebook.com/ECWCoalition/posts/10163709750990251
care waste in hospitals, health centers, laboratories, pharmaceutical firms, blood banks, and other health-related establishments;

WHEREAS, the strict observance of the procedures in the abovementioned manual by the hospitals and other health-related establishments is vital to guarantee that no health care waste will escape proper collection and disposal;

WHEREAS, the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued an advisory enjoining everyone to observe proper waste segregation and disinfection of “special wastes” in their homes, specifically households who have members identified as Persons under Investigation (PUI) or Persons under Monitoring (PUM) according to the previous categorization of COVID-19 cases set by the Department of Health (DOH)⁷;

WHEREAS, the compliance of households to the said advisory, as well as the implementation of the necessary adjustments by the garbage collectors and transporters in the collection and transport of waste from all households, including special wastes, is important to ensure that the spread of COVID-19 in the community will be prevented;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to determine if there are gaps in the existing policies or the implementation thereof on the segregation, collection, transport, and disposal of used face masks and other PPEs generated by households and hospitals around the country during the pandemic;

WHEREAS, the existing measures pertaining to the segregation, collection, transport, and disposal of used face masks and other PPEs should be refined to prevent the piling up of special wastes along coastal areas, rivers, the ocean, and other bodies of water;

THEREFORE, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved that the appropriate Committee of the House of Representatives conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation regarding implementation and the adequacy of existing measures on the segregation, collection, transport, and disposal of used face masks and other PPEs amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adopted,

ALETA C. SUAREZ
Representative
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⁷ https://emb.gov.ph/waste-segregation-advisory/