

House pursues regulation of environmental engineering practice

The practice of environmental engineering in the Philippines has been a pertinent issue ever since an inordinate amount of citizens in the Philippines have been struck by catastrophic typhoons late 2020. Highlighting the intent of regulating the practice of environmental engineering, Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez emphatically notes that its regulation is not only for the sustenance of flora, but also for the protection of the nation. The virtual hearing held last November of 2020, with the participation of the House Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation, focused on the House Bill (HB) Nos.2844, 5008, and 6636.

“The practice of environmental engineering is not a new venture in the field of engineering. Instead, it has been in existence for more than four decades and the Philippines is among the few countries which have not yet embraced the promise of professionalizing its practice,” as mentioned by the Deputy Speaker.

It is to note that insinuating, of any form, in regards to delaying or halting the process of either filing or passing the bill is tantamount to deterring environmental sustainability. Being unconscious or oblivious rather of the fact that humans have exploited nature for personal gains, distorting the balance between society and the environment, has increased the chances of calamities and arduous moments to befall the nation. The typhoon Ulysses for instance has caused panic not only in the Philippines but internationally as well, forcing residents to evacuate in inadequate centers, some choosing not to leave their homes at all.

For this reason, the proposed environmental engineering law has been underscored and is deemed invaluable. Covering competencies ranging from licensure of environmental engineering practitioners, curriculum of environmental engineering to the professional competence and practice of environmental engineering practitioners, environmental engineering has sought out to possess the potential of serving as the key halting the adverse effects of calamities with respect to human work.

In accordance with the previous statement, the Deputy speaker further stated “Thus, this bill seeks to professionalize the practice of environmental engineering in the Philippines to advance the cause of a balanced and healthful environment in the midst of industrial and economic growth. Its practice allows for capitalists and investors to explore avenues of economic growth without posing serious detrimental effects to the environment and thus harmonizing progress with environmental sustainability,”.

The report on pursuing the regulation of environmental engineering is one of the bills that subtly adds to the gradual process of the development of our nation. Albeit it stands as one of the best bills that the House has ought to pass, my contention here is that they should have anticipated the detrimental effects of not acknowledging an issue like this prior to catastrophic events. The recent events that have happened justifies how unprepared the government can be in regards to events such as these. It

is also quite unsettling on how even if they know about the repercussions that would take place if they do not address certain concerns, they continue to disregard those issues as if it would cease to exist.

Note that Ellson Quismorio duly reported that “Siao bared at the beginning of the hearing that a similar bill had been approved by the House of Representatives during the previous 17th Congress.” subsequent to it not being acted upon by the Senate. This just underscores the prior section that even if disastrous repercussions have befallen the nation, there is still a chance, regardless of how minutiae or how pertinent the bill for instance is, that the Senate would overlook such an issue. As a matter of fact, this may not only apply to the Senate but also in general.

There would be moments wherein we have overlooked certain things that have taken a toll on our lives, leaving us with something to regret and learn from. There may be nothing wrong with making mistakes in life however constantly moving towards the path that leads to that mistake is something that one must acknowledge instantly because this may not only affect you, but others as well.

This article has enabled me to have at least an insight of what could happen if even a single person becomes incompetent, and even complacent with their duties. Fortunately, the Senate has at least acknowledged the bill to an extent which means that they are doing something right. But how far would they acknowledge this?

Not only has this shed light on being either incompetent or complacent, but it has also enabled me to understand the importance of responsibility and awareness. Responsibility concerning my duties as a citizen and a student of this country, and awareness of the adverse repercussions if certain actions do not take place. Helping me to have the propensity towards being aware not only of my surroundings but also of myself as a person, and the people around me.

In correspondence with the article, I also feel as if it is my duty to engage in activities that lessen drastic calamitous effects such as recycling, being environmentally informed, researching on organic composing, reducing the use of plastic, and such. Even by small acts, I am able to create this compound effect that would gradually ameliorate the state of the environment in the country.

Quismorio, E. (2020, November 24). House pursues regulation of environmental engineering practice. *Manila Bulletin*. Retrieved from <https://mb.com.ph/2020/11/24/house-pursues-regulation-of-environmental-engineering-practice/>