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SENATE

P.S. RES NO 1236

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **SENATOR COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO**

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF TREE-CUTTING IN MACARTHUR HIGHWAY IN PAMPANGA DUE TO ROAD EXPANSION

WHEREAS, tree cutting permits were issued by Environment Secretary Lito Atienza as of 22 April 2009 which will cover 5,446 trees in Apalit to San Fernando in Pampanga, and Bamnan to Capas and Tarlac City to San Manuel, both in Tarlac;

WHEREAS, Sec. Atienza said the tree cutting could not be avoided with the expansion of the MacArthur Highway, also known as the Manila North Road;

WHEREAS, according to Sofio Quintana, Regional Technical Director for Forestry of the DENR, at least 1,282 trees will be transferred by earth balling while 4,164 trees will be cut;

WHEREAS, he also stressed that none of the trees were on the list of endangered species since most are acacia and fruit trees, citing results of a census;

WHEREAS, these acacia trees have been part of Pampanga's heritage, having been planted between 1914 and 1916;

WHEREAS, one of the main mitigation strategies to combat the urgent global problem of climate change is the planting of trees since forests are carbon sinks or natural features that absorb Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), remove and store the carbon while releasing the oxygen back into the air;

WHEREAS, the issued tree cutting permits are now contrary to the July 2009 policy direction of DENR not to allow any cutting of trees to give way to any development project anywhere in the country, even those covered by environmental compliance certificates, mining permits or any other construction and development permits;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines direct the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to inquire, in aid of legislation, on the environmental effects of tree-cutting in MacArthur Highway in Pampanga due to road expansion.

Adopted,


PIA S. CAYETANO
Senator