

9 NOV 11 PM 2:25

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 1455

RECEIVED

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON ILLEGAL LOGGING ACTIVITIES STILL RAMPANT IN THE SIERRA MADRE MOUNTAIN RANGE

Whereas, Article II, Sec. 16 of the Philippine Constitution provides, "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

Whereas, the country's forest cover is estimated at a low 19% per Ibon Foundation statistics;

Whereas, the Sierra Madre mountain range, considered the "backbone" of Luzon spanning the island's northeastern coast from Cagayan in the north to Quezon in the south, is home to the largest remaining tract of old-growth tropical rainforest in the Philippines;

Whereas, despite Presidential Proclamation 1636 of 1977 declaring the mountain range a protected area, destruction of the virgin forest through legal and illegal logging continues to this day;

Whereas, a mountain tribe leader said that illegal logging thrives with impunity in Sierra Madre during Christmas and election season;

Whereas, last month, illegally cut narra logs from Sierra Madre estimated at 18.88 cubic meters (8,000 board feet) were seized in the village of Cagsiay;

Whereas, the latest haul of illegal logs consisting of an estimated 23.6 cubic meters (10,000 board feet) were seized by military and provincial environment watchdogs in Mauban;

Whereas, the towns of Mauban and Real in northern Quezon which both face the Pacific Ocean have long been known as transshipment point of illegal forest products bound for Metro Manila and other Southern Tagalog provinces: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on illegal logging activities still rampant in the Sierra Madre Mountain Range.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manny Villar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MANNY VILLAR
Senator