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SENATE
P.S. Res 418

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING A REVIEW OF STATE POLICIES, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, WITH REGARD TO THE BADJAOS, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE INDIGENOUS GROUP'S APPARENT SOCIETAL EXCLUSION AND DESIGNATION AS A SUBORDINATE SOCIAL STATUS, WITH THE INTENTION OF HELPING THE COMMUNITY IN LIVELIHOOD AND IMPROVING THEIR CULTURAL AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING

Whereas, Republic Act No. 8371 or the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997 recognizes, respects and protects the rights of indigenous cultural communities (ICCs) and indigenous peoples (IPs) within the framework of the Constitution;

Whereas, Section 2 of R.A. No. 8371 outlines mechanisms to guarantee the realization of the rights of ICCs/IPs, taking into consideration their customs, traditions, values, beliefs, interests and institutions, and to adopt and implement measures to protect their rights to their ancestral domains;

Whereas, the law also established the National Commission on Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to protect and promote the rights of ICCs/IPs;

Whereas, poverty, loss of livelihood, discrimination and armed conflicts have forced some IPs—among them the Badjaos of the coastal towns of Central and Southern Philippines—to give up their seafaring way of life and migrate to urban areas, particularly in Metro Manila;

Whereas, the Badjaos (also spelled Bajau, Bajaw, Bajao, Bajo, Badjau, or Badjaw) are found in coastal settlements in the Sulu archipelago particularly in Jolo, Tawi-Tawi, and Sitangkai while others are scattered in Davao, Surigao, Zamboanga, Basilan, Bohol, Cebu, and Manila in search for livelihood;

Whereas, the Badjao is said to be the most marginalized among all other IPs in the Philippines and "everywhere the Badjao, as a sea people, have tended to be marginalized, excluded from positions of power, despised, and confined to the lowest rungs of the social ladder"¹;

¹ *Otherizing the Badjao: A Spatial Imagery of State Exclusion and Societal Otherization*, Regina Estorba Macalandag, p. 2

Whereas, several Badjao families were also displaced due to the recent conflict in Zamboanga City;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to inquire on the policies and programs of the national government, particularly the National Commission on Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, on the apparent social exclusion confronting the Badjao people;

Adopted,


GRACE POE