

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 490

RECEIVED BY

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN REHABILITATING THE COUNTRY'S LAKES, BASED ON THE REPORTED ASSESSMENT OF GERMANY-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP GLOBAL NATURE FUND THAT THE SEVEN CRATER LAKES IN SAN PABLO CITY, LAGUNA IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST THREATENED LAKES DUE TO THE LAKES' ADVANCING DESTRUCTION

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 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, a *Philippine Star* news article published on 3 February 2014 reported that the Germany-based environmental group Global Nature Fund included the Seven Crater Lakes in San Pablo City, Laguna as one of the world's most threatened lakes for the year 2014 due to the lakes' advancing destruction;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the Seven Crater Lakes were used for recreational activities by local residents for three decades, and has deteriorated due to neglect;

WHEREAS, according to the news report, illegal constructions sprouted along the lakeshore while fish cages, covering as much as 70 percent of the surface area, emerged since the 1990s;

WHEREAS, it was reported that satellite images in 2012 showed that fish cages still occupy more than 40 percent of the surface area, compared to the allowable 10 percent based on an allegedly unenforced moratorium on the renovation of existing fish cages and establishment of new cages.

WHEREAS, according to the officers of cause-oriented group Friends of the Seven Lakes Foundation (FSLF), the growing number of fish cages exacerbates the degradation of the lakes to the point of killing aquatic life, as evidenced by occasional fish kills and the massive growth of green algae resulting from pollution;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the FSLF, along with other environmental organizations, has been striving to make one of the seven lakes a pilot showcase of lake rehabilitation since 2000;


WHEREAS, it was also reported that the GNF and FSLF are seeking sustainable measures to protect the lakes and improve the quality of their water;

WHEREAS, Congress should increase efforts to rehabilitate lakes in the country, as progress has been slow other lake rehabilitation projects such as the one in Laguna Lake;

WHEREAS, Congress should consider putting stricter regulations against factors that deteriorate lakes and other bodies of water, including illegal constructions near the body of water, pollution, and illegal fish cages;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on strengthening the government's efforts in rehabilitating the country's lakes, based on the reported assessment of Germany-based environmental group Global Nature Fund that the Seven Crater Lakes in San Pablo City, Laguna is one of the world's most threatened lakes due to the lakes' advancing destruction.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
PP

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