

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1438

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE REPORT THAT A RESORT IS BEING BUILT IN BORACAY TIMBERLAND
WITHOUT AN ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides: "The State shall protect
2 and promote the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the
3 rhythm and harmony of nature";

4 WHEREAS, various newspapers on 30 June 2015 reported that a posh resort is being
5 built on Boracay Island in an area classified as timberland and without an environmental
6 compliance certificate (ECC);

7 WHEREAS, the media quoted the Western Visayas director of the Environment and
8 Management Bureau (EMB), who said that Seven Seas Boracay Hotel and Residences had an
9 application for an ECC pending before the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
10 (DENR) central office in Manila for clearance;

11 WHEREAS, the application was allegedly filed on June 5 but was referred to the central
12 office because the 2.2-hectare project site in Barangay Yapak is classified as timberland, or
13 public lands reserved for forest purposes;

14 WHEREAS, even without an ECC, the project has been continuing because the
15 municipal government of Malay, which has jurisdiction over the 1,032-hectare island, issued a
16 building permit for the construction of the resort;


17 WHEREAS, the project has drawn controversy because it is being constructed adjacent to
18 Puka Shell Beach, which is considered the island's remaining undeveloped beach and is
19 surrounded by pristine forest;

20 WHEREAS, an online petition is calling on the DENR and other government agencies to
21 stop development activities especially in the Puka Shell Beach area, at the northern part of the
22 island, which has generated 10,726 supporters as of June 29;

1 WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, must ensure that local government
2 units strictly follow laws aimed at preserving the environment, including the issuance of
3 environmental permits;

4 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
5 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation on the report that a resort
6 is being built in Boracay timberland without an environmental clearance certificate.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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/rjd