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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1544

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE REPORTED PLAN TO CONSTRUCT A MULTI-LEVEL PARKING BUILDING
NEAR THE FAMOUS BANAUE RICE TERRACES

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution provides in Article 14, Sections 15 and 16:

2 Section 15. Arts and letters shall enjoy the patronage of the State. The
3 State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural
4 heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations.

5 Section 16. All the country's artistic and historic wealth constitutes the
6 cultural treasure of the nation and shall be under the protection of the State which
7 may regulate its disposition.

8 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 11 August 2015 reported that a multi-level
9 parking building will be constructed near the famed Banaue Rice Terraces, a local tourist spot
10 inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List and declared as a National Cultural Treasure by
11 virtue of Presidential Decree No. 260;

12 WHEREAS, residents have allegedly lodged a complaint at the Ifugao Regional Trial
13 Court to stop the project, which they said lacked local consultation and environmental impact
14 assessment;

15 WHEREAS, they also claimed that there are irregularities in the grant of a Development
16 Bank of the Philippines (DBP) loan for the said project, as the funds were disbursed on 10
17 December 2014, while Ordinance No. 16, which authorized the municipal mayor to borrow, was
18 still being reviewed by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan;

19 WHEREAS, the local government reportedly defended the construction of the parking
20 building by saying that it will encourage tourists to stay longer in the town and that consultations
21 were held in 2013;

1 WHEREAS, the six-storey car park building allegedly threatens to impede the view of
2 the terraces, weaken its structural integrity, cause irreparable damage to the environs, and create
3 more traffic congestion in the area once built;

4 WHEREAS, Congress must strengthen existing laws protecting heritage and cultural sites
5 amid rampant construction near important areas and landmarks;

6 WHEREAS, legislation is also necessary to set guidelines on the necessary documents
7 needed for local government units to borrow from banks;

8 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
9 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported plan to
10 construct a multi-level parking building near the famed Banaue Rice Terraces.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
78

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