

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE }
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
First Regular Session }

04 SEP -2 P1:44

RECEIVED BY: _____

SENATE

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P. Senate Resolution No. _____

Introduced by Senator Madrigal

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SENSELESS DESTRUCTION AND CUTTING OF 9,936 TREES AND SAPLINGS PLANTED BY THE MANILA SEEDLING BANK FOUNDATION, INC., ALONG EDSA CORNER QUEZON AVENUE, QUEZON CITY, ALLEGEDLY WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE, BY A CONSTRUCTION FIRM IN THE SAID PROPERTY OWNED BY THE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY, AND FURTHER, EXPRESSING ALARM OVER THE BLATANT DISREGARD OF THE NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES IN THE CUTTING OF THE SAID TREES AND SAPLINGS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FORMULATING POLICY MEASURES THAT WOULD EFFECTIVELY AND IMMEDIATELY STRENGTHEN THE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, the quality of air in the Philippines has continuously deteriorated during the last twenty five years;

WHEREAS, according to a study conducted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the exposure to fine particulate matter has caused approximately half-a-million (500,000) cases of lower respiratory illness and approximately five thousand (5,000) cases of premature deaths annually in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, on 28 August 2004, the Philippine Daily Inquirer reported that nine thousand nine hundred thirty-six (9,936) trees and saplings located at the corner of EDSA and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, Metro Manila were bulldozed without prior notice and warning to the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation, Inc., (MSBF), which planted the said trees and saplings;

WHEREAS, the MSBF is a non-stock, non profit entity organized primarily to engage in the production of tree seedlings to supply the needs of the various government offices and agencies in all kinds of activities relating to tree planting and of the general public under Presidential Decree No. 1153;

WHEREAS, the said trees and saplings, which were bulldozed without prior notice, were intended to help preserve and protect the environment, as the same are

natural "air pools" that concurrently act as the agent which not only keeps the water tables intact, but also prevents soil erosion;

WHEREAS, the said trees and saplings were located in the property owned by the National Housing Authority (NHA);

WHEREAS, the said act was alleged to have been committed by a particular construction firm that had leased the said property from the NHA;

WHEREAS, the cutting of the nine thousand nine hundred and thirty-six (9,936) trees and sapling is an unprecedented destruction of trees within an urban area and likewise, is a blatant disregard of the contributive value that such trees provide in the protection and mitigation of the continuing environmental degradation in Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, the indiscriminate cutting of the said trees, having been made without the proper permit or authorization from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), is a violation of existing environmental laws and its respective rules and regulations;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the senseless destruction and cutting of nine thousand nine hundred thirty-six (9,936) trees and saplings planted by the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation, Inc., along EDSA corner Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, allegedly without prior notice, by a construction firm in the said property owned by the national housing authority, and further, expressing alarm over the blatant disregard of the negative environmental consequences in the cutting of the said trees and saplings, with the end in view of formulating policy measures that would effectively and immediately strengthen the preservation and protection of the environment.

Adopted,


M.A. MADRIGAL