THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session

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SENATE

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RECEIVED BY :____

P. Senate Resolution No. 106

Introduced by Senator Madrigal

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS, THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED INDISCRIMINATE CUTTING AND SMUGGLING OF TREES, VIOLATION OF THE LAW ON PUBLIC BIDDING, GREATLY DISADVANTAGEOUS CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO, AND OTHER UNSCRUPULOUS ACTS ALLEGEDLY PERPETUATED BY THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINE'S LOS BAÑOS (UPLB) WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING MEASURES TO MAINTAIN THE HONOR AND INTEGRITY OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICIES

WHEREAS, the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), being one of the seven (7) constituent universities of the University of the Philippines, is a coeducational, publicly funded academic, research and extension institution, dedicated to advancing knowledge and educating students in science, technology, agriculture, veterinary medicine and other areas of scholarship that will best serve the Filipinos and the humanity in the 21st century;

WHEREAS, The UPLB is renowned as one of the leading educational institutions for agriculture and forestry in South East Asia due to the claims that the institute's Faculty and Administration consists of leaders in higher education, business and industry, science, engineering and other professions;

WHEREAS, based on inadequate and disputable reports issued by the Dean of the College of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR), the UPLB Chancellor issued the order and endeavored to have the century old and historical Dao tree in front of the Student Union (SU) building of UPLB cut down, on grounds of public safety, without having endeavored to save or rectify the same;

WHEREAS, with no permits having been issued by the DENR, two (2) bitaog and one (1) fire tree, located at the right side of the road going to Agronomy Orchard near main road leading to the CFNR gate, had been cut down based upon orders issued by the UPLB administration;

WHEREAS, within the Makiling Botanical Gardens which is under the care and supervision of ULPB's CFNR, a century old Dao tree lays fallen which has been, contrary to statements issued by the CFNR, allegedly been cut down maliciously;

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WHEREAS, the SU Dao tree, the MBG Dao tree and the two (2) bitaog trees near the CFNR are of such class of trees which the law specifically requires the cutter thereof to possess the proper permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) before such trees may be fallen;

WHEREAS, it has been alleged that the MBG Dao tree and the two (2) bitaog trees have been cut down without the proper DENR permit, in violation of law;

WHEREAS, in its endeavors to cut down the aforementioned trees, the UPLB allegedly entered into a service contract with a local wood cutter without undergoing through the proper bidding process prescribed by law;

WHEREAS, aside from the extra-ordinary process undertaken by the UPLB administration in constituting the Service Contract for the cutting of wood, the said contract they entered into is gravely disadvantageous to the government which, pursuant to law, is void;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned Dao and bitaog trees, notwithstanding its immeasurable environmental worth, has a total net worth in the millions of pesos;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, directing the Committee of Public Officers and Investigations, the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, and the Committee on Education to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the alleged indiscriminate cutting and smuggling of trees, violation of the law on public bidding, greatly disadvantageous contracts entered into, and other unscrupulous acts allegedly perpetuated by the administration of the University of the Philippine's Los Baños (UPLB) with the end in view of enacting measures to maintain the honor and integrity of the administration and strengthen the University's environmental protection policies.

Adopted,

M.A. MADRIGAL