

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

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SENATE

P. Resolution No. **160**

Introduced by Sen. Madrigal

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMMUNITIES, TO CONDUCT PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES (ICC) AND SPECIAL RESOURCE PERSONS FROM LEGITIMATE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, TO DETERMINE MORE EFFECTIVE MEANS OF ENFORCING IP RIGHTS

WHEREAS, According to the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, the Philippine archipelago is home to an Indigenous Peoples (IP) population of no less than 12 million persons comprising around 17% of the total Filipino population belonging to almost 150 tribes or ethno-linguistic groups;

WHEREAS, The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Freedoms reported that Philippine society ignored its indigenous component and did little to improve the standards of living of its indigenous cultural communities. The said report also stated that the Philippine government failed to overcome the high rates of poverty and low levels of human development, as defined by the United Nations, which characterized these populations;

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 22 of the Constitution states that "the State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development" as one of the policies of the State;

WHEREAS, Article XII, Section 5 on the National Economy and Patrimony provides that "the State, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and national development policies and programs, shall protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to their ancestral lands to ensure their economic, social, and cultural well-being;

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Republic Act 8371, otherwise known as the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 (IPRA), affirms that "the State shall recognize, respect and protect the rights of ICC/ IP to preserve and develop their cultures, traditions and institutions. It shall consider these rights in the formulation of national laws and policies;

WHEREAS, almost a decade after the passage of IPRA, much is left to be desired in the promotion and protection of the rights of the ICC/IP of the country. There are still a wide variety of issues that needs to be recognized and addressed;

WHEREAS, to come up with a comprehensive picture of the current state of the ICC/IP, it is imperative that the representatives from the various tribes and expert people in this sector be heard and their concerns be addressed;

WHEREAS, to achieve the policy of the State and the proper implementation of the IPRA, an analysis of the stakeholders must be carried out;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to Direct the Committee on Cultural Communities, to conduct public consultations with Representatives of the various Indigenous Cultural Communities and special resource persons from legitimate Non-Governmental Organizations, to determine more effective means of enforcing IP rights.

Adopted,


M.A. MADRIGAL