

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



SENATE

P.S. RES. NO. 808

---

Introduced by SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

---

**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SHOOTING OF FOREST RANGERS, MELVIN AKAMD AND KUKAN MAAS, INSIDE THE REFORESTATION SITE OF THE MASUNGI GEORESERVE IN SITIO SAN ROQUE, RIZAL, AND ON THE CONTINUING THREATS AGAINST THE MASUNGI GEORESERVE FOUNDATION**

**WHEREAS**, Section 16, Article II of the Constitution provides that the “state shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature”;

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 of Republic Act No. 11038, or the *National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act*, provides that it is the policy of the State to secure for the present and future generations of Filipino the perpetual existence of all native plants and animals through the establishment of a comprehensive system of integrated protected areas;

**WHEREAS**, through Presidential Proclamation 1636 (s. 1977), a certain parcel of land of the public domain embraced and situated in the provinces of Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna and Quezon was declared as a national park, wildlife sanctuary and game preserve, which is now known as the Masungi Georeserve;

**WHEREAS**, DENR Administrative Order No. 33 (s. 1993) states that Masungi Rock and its vicinity is declared as Strict Nature Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary and the aforesaid area is declared as closed to mining location, exploration, development

and exploitation and other activities which might affect adversely the habitat and the ecological balance in the area;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the Masungi Georeserve, a geopark situated in Sitio San Roque, Rizal was created in 1996, to serve as a sanctuary and conservation area for the sustainable protection of biodiversity, rock formations, flora, and fauna, within the said territory,<sup>2</sup> which continues to be preserved by the Masungi Georeserve Foundation since its creation in 2015;<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, playing a pivotal role in the government's forest-protection strategy are the country's forest rangers, which are tasked with monitoring, confiscating, apprehending, and prosecuting illegal activities;<sup>4</sup>

**WHEREAS**, forest rangers are considered as the guardians of the nation's forest and timber lands, as they are on the front lines in protecting conservation areas,<sup>5</sup> such as the Masungi Georeserve;

**WHEREAS**, on 24 July 2021, two (2) forest rangers, Melvin Akamd and Kukan Maas, working for the Masungi Georeserve, were brutally shot and wounded in the head and in the neck,<sup>6</sup> after they had just returned from patrolling their site in the reforestation;<sup>7</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the Masungi Georeserve Foundation, enraged by the heinous act of violence committed against their forest rangers,<sup>8</sup> revealed that it has been receiving

---

<sup>1</sup>Administrative Order No. 33. (1993, May 10). Department of Environment and Natural Resources Philippines. <http://policy.denr.gov.ph/1993/DAO1993-33.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Reyes, N. (2016, March 27). "A first-timer's guide to Masungi Georeserve, where adventure awaits." Rappler. <https://www.rappler.com/life-and-style/travel/masungi-georeserve-rizal-guide-tips>

<sup>3</sup>PNP probs shooting in Masungi, offers training to forest rangers. (2021, July 26). CNN Philippines. <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/7/26/Masungi-Georeserve-forest-ranger-shooting.html>

<sup>4</sup>Chavez, L. (2019, September 11). "Pray & continue: Death of Philippine rangers is latest in legacy of violence". Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2019/09/pray-continue-death-of-philippine-ranger-is-latest-in-legacy-of-violence/>

<sup>5</sup>Chavez, L. (2019, September 11). "Pray & continue: Death of Philippine rangers is latest in legacy of violence". Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2019/09/pray-continue-death-of-philippine-ranger-is-latest-in-legacy-of-violence/>

<sup>6</sup>Quismoro, E. (2021, July 25). Masungi Georeserve group enraged over shooting of two forest rangers. Manila Bulletin. <https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/25/masungi-georeserve-group-enraged-over-shooting-of-two-forest-rangers/>

<sup>7</sup>Cabico, G. (2021, July 25). "Masungi Georeserve calls for action, protection after shooting of 2 forest rangers". Philippine Star. <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/25/2115089/masungi-georeserve-calls-action-protection-after-shooting-2-forest-rangers>

<sup>8</sup>Masungi Georeserve. (2021, July 25). Two Forest Rangers at Bayog Ranger Station near GSB Resort. Twitter. <https://mobile.twitter.com/MasungiGeo/status/1418965099696562184>

various threats, intimidations, and harassments from disgruntled violators in the past few months, which have been reported to the authorities;<sup>9</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the Masungi Georeserve is no stranger to encroachment, quarrying and land grabbing by private firms that refuse to respect its protected status<sup>10</sup>, which has led the Masungi Georeserve Foundation to call for justice and immediate security assistance and action<sup>11</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, just last month, before the shooting incident, the environmental protectors discovered another blatant tree-cutting in the critical watershed during an on-the-ground inspection of the Upper Marikina Watershed<sup>12</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the aforementioned watershed is located around the georeserve and is considered an all-important body of water as it provides water to many cities in the National Capital Region and it plays a vital role in the regulation of floods in the low-lying areas of Rizal;<sup>13</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the Upper Marikina Watershed, is also considered a significant protected area that regulates water flow, serves as habitats of threatened flora and fauna while supplying indigenous people with an ancestral domain;<sup>14</sup>

**WHEREAS**, sadly, in 2019, the Philippines was ranked as the world's second deadliest country for environmental activists and defenders with 43 killings, making the total killings reach 212, or an average of four people killed every week;<sup>15</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup>Masungi Georeserve. (2021, July 25). Two Forest Rangers at Bayog Ranger Station near GSB Resort. Twitter. <https://mobile.twitter.com/MasungiGeo/status/1418965099696562184>

<sup>10</sup>PNP probs shooting in Masungi, offers training to forest rangers. (2021, July 26). CNN Philippines. <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/7/26/Masungi-Georeserve-forest-ranger-shooting.html>

<sup>11</sup>Masungi Georeserve. (2021, July 25). Two Forest Rangers at Bayog Ranger Station near GSB Resort. Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/1591599464459612/posts/3152806655005544/>

<sup>12</sup>Quismoro, E. (2021, July 25). Masungi Georeserve group enraged over shooting of two forest rangers. Manila Bulletin. <https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/25/masungi-georeserve-group-enraged-over-shooting-of-two-forest-rangers/>

<sup>13</sup>Alave, K. (2012, January 3). Marikina watershed declared protected area. Inquirer Philippines. <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/121923/marikina-watershed-declared-protected-area>

<sup>14</sup>Cabico, G. (2021, July 25). "Masungi Georeserve calls for action, protection after shooting of 2 forest rangers". Philippine Star. <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/25/2115089/masungi-georeserve-calls-action-protection-after-shooting-2-forest-rangers>

<sup>15</sup>"Philippines world's second deadliest country for environmental activists. (2020, July 29). CNN Philippines. <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/7/29/PH-second-deadliest-environment-activists.html>

**WHEREAS**, forest rangers in the country have endured hard work and some have even sacrificed their lives in the line of duty;

**WHEREAS**, the flagrant threat and attacks against forest rangers and those who protect the country's environment must be immediately addressed, as the brazen acts of violence prevent these forest rangers from continuing to fulfill their duties without fear for their safety and lives;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, to urge the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the shooting of forest rangers, Melvin Akamd and Kukan Maas, inside the reforestation site of the Masungi Georeserve in Sitio San Roque, Rizal, and on the continuing threats against the Masungi Georeserve Foundation.

*Adopted,*

*Pia S. Cayetano*  
PIA S. CAYETANO