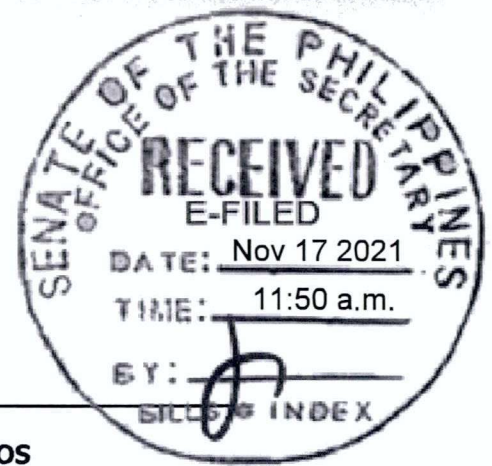


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATE
P.S.R. No. 949



INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE GRIEVANCES OF THE RESIDENTS AND NATIVES OF BORACAY, PARTICULARLY ISSUES OF ALLEGED FORCED DEMOLITION AND WARRANTLESS ARRESTS, AS WELL AS INCOMPLETE REHABILITATION

WHEREAS, in 2018, President Rodrigo Duterte signed Executive Order No. 52 to rehabilitate the island for two (2) years, prompting its total closure;

WHEREAS, after three years, and perhaps also owing to the strain of the pandemic, rehabilitation remains incomplete¹ and environmental degradation remains a major problem of the island²;

WHEREAS, according to the Natives of Boracay and Business Stakeholders, Inc. (NABBSI), a people's organization advocating for the vested land rights of Boracay's early settlers, present residents and business stakeholders, the implementation of the rehabilitation process on the ground has been marred by a plethora of implementation issues;

WHEREAS, there have been reports of supposed warrantless arrests of forestland occupants, including an incident in November 2020 when a group of individuals were made to enter a van supposedly to be brought to a discussion near Astoria Current, but were instead brought to the police station where cases were filed against them;

WHEREAS, there were also reports of forced evictions of land occupants allegedly without just compensation -- with some families ordered to self-demolish despite the absence of any discussion on resettlement sites;

WHEREAS, according to the local communities, big corporations were given preferential treatment over local landowners in the management of wetlands and no public consultations were held with the latter in the issue of wetland management;

WHEREAS, environmental protection should always be people-centered and

¹ <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1489949/duterte-extends-term-of-boracays-management-task-force-to-2022>

² <https://www.nast.ph/index.php/13-news-press-releases/353-science-policy-forum-finds-environment-degradation-as-the-major-problem-in-boracay>

rehabilitation should never exclude the host communities, particularly those communities who have lived on the land for time immemorial and have vested rights to the same;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the appropriate senate committee to conduct an investigation in aid of legislation on the grievances of the residents and natives of Boracay, particularly issues of alleged forced demolition and warrantless arrests, as well as incomplete rehabilitation.

Adopted,


RISA HONTIVEROS
Senator