


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

*22 JUL 25 A10 :37

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P. S. Res. No. 58

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

RESOLUTION

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE MASUNGI-BAYOG RANGER TEAM OF THE MASUNGI GEORESERVE FOUNDATION FOR WINNING IN THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER AWARDS 2022 OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN) AND WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS (WCPA)

1 WHEREAS, the Senate of the Philippines has, on numerous occasions,
2 recognized and paid tribute to remarkable Filipinos for their invaluable contribution
3 to their chosen fields and for bringing pride and honor to the country for their
4 momentous achievements;

5 WHEREAS, the Masungi-Bayog Ranger Team of the Masungi Georeserve
6 Foundation were among the awardees of the second International Ranger Awards
7 presented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the
8 World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) in a hybrid ceremony held in Kigali,
9 Rwanda last July 20, 2022;

10 WHEREAS, the Philippine team represented by Kuhkan Maas, John Paul
11 Magana and Monica Inonong joins seven rangers, three ranger teams and two
12 special awardees from ten countries from Africa, Asia, Australasia and Latin America
13 who were recognized for their extraordinary passion, commitment and courage in
14 protecting forests and conservation sites, endangered wildlife and their habitats;

15 WHEREAS, this year's winners also include: Orang National Park and Tiger
16 Reserve Ranger Team (India), Tiger Protection & Conservation Unit (Indonesia),
17 Jorge Banegas Franco (Bolivia), Hector Luis Espinoza Acevedo (Nicaragua), Felipe
18 Otoniel León Angel (Mexico), Ben 'Yuddiy' Brown (Australia), Anti-Poaching Tracking

1 Specialists K9 Unit (Zimbabwe), Ali Hassan Ali (Kenya), Yyondji Community Eco-
2 guards (Democratic Republic of Congo), Popote Ole Sapulai (Kenya), and Nyaradzo
3 Auxillia Hoto (Zimbabwe);

4 WHEREAS, the Filipino rangers, who are the guardians and patrollers of the
5 Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape against illegal encroachment and
6 destruction, have demonstrated exceptional resilience and dedication to duty despite
7 "harsh working conditions, personal discrimination, intimidation and violence¹";

8 WHEREAS, Maas, who hails from Cotabato City, survived an armed attack and
9 a gunshot to his neck last July 24, 2021 after a day's work while resting in the Bayog
10 Ranger Station, allegedly perpetrated by illegal resort owners encroaching in the
11 area. Masungi rangers, including Magana and Inonong, also endured incidents of
12 physical and legal harassment in their line of work and experienced intimidation and
13 threats to their life and safety to discourage them from performing their jobs.
14 Despite all these risks, they remain steadfast and undaunted in their advocacy and
15 vocation;

16 WHEREAS, the State recognizes the important role of forest rangers,
17 environment defenders and conservation advocates in looking after and taking care
18 of nature and its resources, as such are essential elements not only in economic
19 growth and inclusive development, but also in the most basic matter of human
20 survival;

21 WHEREAS, the international recognition of our forest heroes and heroines
22 shines light on the important and urgent matter of protecting our natural resources
23 and preserving the beauty and health of our environment amid threats of
24 deforestation, biodiversity loss, continued degradation and damaging exploitation;

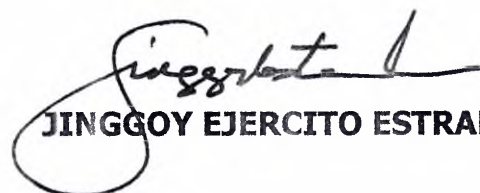
25 WHEREAS, the courage, hard work and sacrifice of Masungi-Bayog Ranger
26 Team and their exemplary dedication to service benefit millions of Filipinos, including
27 the future generations, and ensure their right to a balanced and healthful ecology
28 and access to essential ecosystem provisions;

29 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate,
30 to commend and congratulate the Masungi-Bayog Ranger Team of the Masungi
31 Georeserve Foundation for winning in the International Ranger Awards 2022 of the

¹ <https://www.iucn.org/press-release/202207/rangers-zimbabwe-kenya-and-drc-among-global-award-winners>

- 1 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and World Commission on
- 2 Protected Areas (WCPA).

Adopted,



JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA