

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS )  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
THIRD REGULAR SESSION )

6 AUG 15 1966

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P. S. Resolution No. 544

Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMMUNITIES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE POSSIBLE DISPLACEMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE DUMAGAT TRIBE AND THE DESECRATION OF THEIR CULTURAL BELIEFS AND TRADITIONS DUE TO LARGE-SCALE DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY THE OPERATION OF ROSEMOOR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WITHIN THE HISTORIC BIAK-NA-BATO NATIONAL SHRINE AND PARK IN THE PROVINCE OF BULACAN, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION**

**WHEREAS**, Article II, Section 22 of the 1987 Constitution expressly provides that the State *“recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development;”*

**WHEREAS**, Article XII, Section 5 of the Constitution likewise mandates that the State shall *“protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to their ancestral lands to ensure their economic, social, and cultural well-being;”*

**WHEREAS**, Section 2, paragraph (c) of Republic Act 8371, or the Indigenous People’s Rights Act (IPRA), further provides that the State shall *“recognize, respect and protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to preserve and develop their cultures, traditions and institutions, and that it shall consider these rights in the formulation of national laws and policies;”*

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines is a signatory of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which declares that *“in those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, or to use their own language;”*

**WHEREAS**, a large number of the *Dumagat* tribe are inhabitants of Bulacan province, with a large area therein having been awarded to the *Dumagats* as their ancestral domain by virtue of a certificate of ancestral

domain title (CADT) issued by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples in February 2004;

**WHEREAS**, the *Dumagats* consider the mountains of *Biak-na-Bato* in San Miguel, Bulacan as a place of worship and believe the same to be the home of *Sobkal*, their “spirit guardian,” who was sent by *Makadepat*, their god, to protect them from harm;

**WHEREAS**, the mountains of *Biak-na-Bato* are also historically recognized as burial grounds and early settlement areas of the *Dumagats*;

**WHEREAS**, *Biak-na-Bato* was declared as a national shrine and park by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 223, covering an area of 2,117 hectares situated in San Miguel and adjacent towns;

**WHEREAS**, Rosemoor Development Corporation (RMDC) is the holder of a Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which MPSA granted RMDC the authority to undertake mining and marble quarrying operations even over areas covered by the *Biak-na-Bato* national shrine;

**WHEREAS**, officials and members of the *Dumagat* Indigenous Peoples of Bulacan, through the Provincial Consultative Body of Bulacan, have expressed their vehement opposition to the continued operations of RMDC in the face of the serious threats thereof to their community and, more significantly, to their time-honored culture, traditions and their right to a healthful ecology;

**WHEREAS**, there is an urgent and compelling need to look into the grave concerns raised by the *Dumagats* in order to give full meaning and significance to the aforesaid provisions of the 1987 Constitution, the IPRA and international covenants entered into by the Philippines;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Committee on Cultural Communities to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the possible displacement of members of the *Dumagat* tribe and the desecration of their cultural beliefs and traditions due to large-scale destruction caused by the operation of Rosemoor Development Corporation within the historic *Biak-na-Bato* national shrine and park in the province of Bulacan, with the end in view of enacting remedial legislation.

Adopted,



**M.A. MADRIGAL**