FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session

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SENATE P.S. Res. <u>140</u>

HECH VER AV :

Introduced by Senator Villar

RESOLUTION

URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ANENT THE REPORTED DEGRADATION OF THE BANAUE RICE TERRACES, A WORLD HERITAGE SITE, DUE TO PESTILENCE AND RAMPANT COMMERCIALIZATION

Whereas, the Banaue Rice Terraces is a testament of our ancestors' craftsmanships, architectural and agricultural genius and priceless Philippine heritage;

Whereas, very recently, in *Haring Ibon*, a publication of Haribon Foundation, it was reported that the Banaue Rice Terraces has not been spared from the menace of invasive alien species;

Whereas, it was reported that giant earthworms and other pests have been destroying the terrace walls and causing them to break and dissipate;

Whereas, no successful interventions to control biological pests have been introduced by relevant government agencies including the Departments of Agriculture and Environment and Natural Resources;

Whereas, the pestilence equaled by the heavy commercialization of the Banaue Rice Terraces have resulted in the extinction of the traditionally present biodiversity and the terraces' ecological equilibrium;

Whereas, the propagation of the golden kuhol (snails) in the paddies of the Banaue Rice Terraces which was introduced by the DA to augment the food supply of the residents in the area is a major problem that threatens the locale known as the Eighth Wonder of the World;

Whereas, a comprehensive study must be undertaken on the Banaue Rice Terraces to prevent its fast deterioration: Now therefore be it

Resolved, by the Senate, as it is hereby resolves, To urge the appropriate Senate committee to conduct a comprehensive report, in aid of legislation, anent the reported degradation of the Banaue Rice Terraces, a world heritage site, due to pestilence and rampant commercialization.

Adopted,

MANNY VILIAR