

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

SENATE

P. S. Resolution No. **610**

Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL
COMMUNITIES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, INTO THE REPORTED CONTINUOUS AND
RAMPANT ILLEGAL LOGGING OPERATIONS OF DACON
CORPORATION WITHIN THE ANCESTRAL DOMAIN OF
THE SIRAWAI KALIBUGAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF
ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF
RECOMMENDING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that, “(t)he State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development;”

WHEREAS, the 1987 Philippine Constitution further mandates that, “(t)he State, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and national development policies and programs, shall protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to their ancestral lands to ensure their economic, social, and cultural well-being;”

WHEREAS, Republic Act 8371, or the Indigenous People’s Rights Act (IPRA), provides that “(t)he rights of ownership and possession of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous People to their ancestral domains shall be recognized and protected;

WHEREAS, the DACON Company and its subsidiaries, allegedly owned and/or controlled by Mr. Victor Consunji, are reportedly conducting illegal logging operations on lands which form part of the ancestral domain of the Sirawai Kalibugan indigenous peoples of Zamboanga del Norte;

WHEREAS, the purported illegal logging operations commenced in April 2006 and have been ongoing everyday since;

WHEREAS, the aforesaid company is operating day and night, and is destroying with impunity the ancestral domain and lands of the Sirawai Kalibugan tribe, thereby creating havoc on their cultivation activities, plants, habitat, natural resources, sacred places and burial grounds;

WHEREAS, the members of Kalibugan tribe fear that with the rapid soil erosion and deforestation of their forest reserves brought about by the unabated illegal logging operations of DACON Company, theirs is an ecological time bomb waiting to happen;

WHEREAS, there is a pressing need to look into the alarming reports of DACON's violations of our laws and, more importantly, of the fundamental rights of our indigenous peoples;

WHEREAS, there is further an imperative need to investigate the aforesaid reports in order to ascertain the sufficiency or adequacy, as well as effectivity, of the present laws in protecting the rights of members of cultural communities under the 1987 Constitution, the IPRA and other relevant laws;

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 reported continuous and rampant illegal logging operations of DACON Corporation within the ancestral domain of the Srawai Kalibugan indigenous peoples of Zamboanga del Norte, with the end in view of recommending remedial legislation.

Adopted,


M.A. MADRIGAL