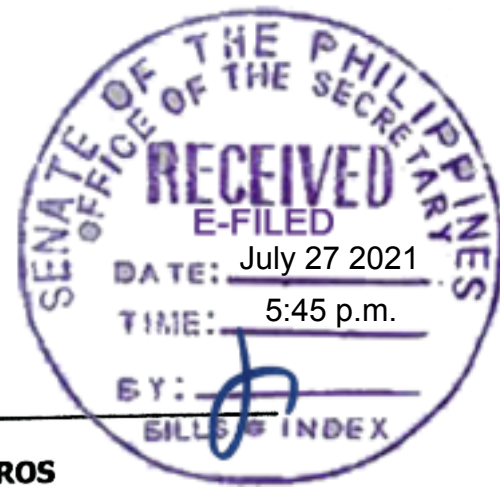


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATE

P.S.R. No. 806



INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE SHOOTING OF TWO FOREST RANGERS OF MASUNGI GEORESERVE IN SITIO SAN ROQUE, BARANGAY PINUGAY, RIZAL, AS WELL AS THE ILLEGAL INCURSIONS BY ARMED GUARDS THAT IMPEDE REFORESTATION EFFORTS IN THE WATERSHED AREA

WHEREAS, on July 24, 2021, Saturday, two forest rangers of Masungi Georeserve stationed at its reforestation site in Rizal were shot in the dark of night, amidst heavy rains by unidentified men in bonnets;

WHEREAS, the shooting incident happened at a ranger station near GSB Resort in Sitio San Roque in Bgy. Pinugay, an enclosed area that the Masungi Georeserve administration alleges to be illegally occupying forestland in the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape,

WHEREAS, the two rangers are still waiting for operation for their gunshot wounds as one was shot in the head while the other was shot in the neck;

WHEREAS, according to Masungi trustee and advocacy officer Billie Dumaliang, "the latest attack was brazen and virtually in plain sight of police personnel" as a Special Action Forces station was just around the corner from the site where the attack happened;

WHEREAS, these attacks come at the heels of a series of suspicious activities at the watershed, including large-scale fires, the cutting down of countless young trees, the illegal erection of new structures, and the presence of armed private guards hired by private firms that claim to have bought, and are cordoning off, parts of the area for their private use;

WHEREAS, the site of the burning is in the same area as where private firms (Rublou and Green Atom Renewable Energy Corp.) have set their installations and installed armed guards;

WHEREAS, these continued aggressions not only threaten the safety of the rangers, but have also prevented reforestation and protection efforts;

WHEREAS, studies estimate that only about 23%-34% of forest cover is left in the Upper Marikina Watershed, even after its declaration as a protected area in 2011;

WHEREAS, deforestation in the Upper Marikina Watershed has serious, far-reaching and inter-generational consequences, not least of which is the greater vulnerability of Metro Manila to flooding;

NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED TO BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES TO DIRECT THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE SHOOTING OF TWO FOREST RANGERS OF MASUNGI GEORESERVE IN SITIO SAN ROQUE, BARANGAY PINUGAY, RIZAL, AS WELL AS THE ILLEGAL INCURSIONS BY ARMED GUARDS THAT IMPEDE REFORESTATION EFFORTS IN THE WATERSHED AREA.

Adopted.


RISA HONTIVEROS
Senator