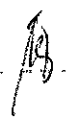


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SENATE
PSR No. 891

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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE
RENEWED CUTTING OF TREES ALONG KATIPUNAN ROAD, QUEZON CITY
FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING THE POSSIBLE LIABILITY OF THE
METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND RECOMMENDING
APPROPRIATE ACTION

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16, states that, "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, despite the long-running protest of community groups since 2003 to the present, various news agencies reported the resumption of the cutting of trees along Katipunan Road by the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA);

WHEREAS, officers of the Ateneo de Manila University, Miriam College, and University of the Philippines - Diliman denounced the tree-cutting by MMDA as reported and recorded on the night of February 12, 2009 by concerned members of the Katipunan community;

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued a cease and desist order against the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) on February 13, 2009 to prevent it from cutting more trees along Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City for its road-widening project, citing that the MMDA failed to secure a permit for its tree-cutting activities, violating a provision of Presidential Decree 953, which penalizes unauthorized cutting, destruction, damaging, and injuring of trees, plants, and vegetation;

WHEREAS, the Katipunan community has initiated efforts to clean the air by encouraging a culture of mass and non-motorized transport within the campuses, a direction in harmony with Executive Order No. 774, signed on December 26, 2008 and Administrative Order 254 signed on January 30, 2009 which issuances seek to respond to the impacts of climate change;

WHEREAS, E.O. 774 and A.O. 254 reorganized the Presidential Task Force on Climate Change under the chairmanship of the President and created the Task Group on Fossil Fuels, among others, under the leadership of the Department of

Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and the DENR as deputy group head, and various agencies, including the MMDA, as members for the purpose of reforming the transport sector to reduce fossil fuel use and to favor non-motorized transport within the context of a National Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Strategy for the Philippines which it shall formulate;

WHEREAS, the Task Group on Fossil Fuels is also mandated to review conformity of existing legislation to the National EST Strategy;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the renewed cutting of trees along Katipunan Road, Quezon City for the purpose of determining the possible liability of the Metro Manila Development Authority and recommending appropriate action.

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA