


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

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1197

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED OIL TREASURE
FOUND IN THE PHILIPPINE "PETROLEUM NUT"

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 16 of the Constitution provides: 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, Article II, Section 17 of the Constitution provides: The State shall give priority to education, *science and technology*, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development (emphasis supplied);

WHEREAS, Article XIV, Section 10 of the Constitution provides: Science and technology are essential for national development and progress. The State shall give priority to research and development, invention, innovation, and their utilization; and to science and technology education, training, and services. It shall support indigenous, appropriate, and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, and their application to the country's productive systems and national life;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9513 or the "Renewable Energy Act of 2008" declares as a policy of the State to encourage the development and utilization of renewable energy sources as tools to effectively prevent or reduce harmful emissions and therefore balance the goals of economic growth and development with the protection of health and the environment;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, on 2 July 2009, in an article entitled "Benguet Finds Oil Treasure in Petroleum Nut," reported that agriculture scientists see the petroleum nut as a source of sustainable fuel in the Cordillera and the answer to India's jatropha, which is now being promoted by biodiesel advocates all over the world;

WHEREAS, in the same article, it was reported that our country spends P125 million in jatropha;

WHEREAS, PDI reported that the tree is endemic to the Philippines and is believed to be the country's "most promising biofuel treasure, which could provide energy to rural areas and reduce global warming;"

WHEREAS, the petroleum nut thrives in Benguet, Nueva Vizcaya, Mt. Province, and Ifugao;

WHEREAS, the National Government must extend the necessary support to the local governments of Benguet, Nueva Vizcaya, Mt. Province, and Ifugao and to the

public and private educational and research entities involved so that a full blown research of the potential of petroleum nut as an alternative source of fuel may be conducted;

WHEREAS, as a signatory to the United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention, it behooves the State to undertake such research activities for the promotion and development of alternative fuel that shall contribute to the worldwide effort to reduce greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the reported "oil treasure" found in the Philippine petroleum nut.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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