

9 SEP 30 AM 1959

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. **1385**

RECEIVED BY

Handwritten signature

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DEPLETION OF MANGROVES IN THE PHILIPPINES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF IMPROVING STRATEGIES IN MANGROVE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Whereas, mangroves are one of the most endangered habitats in the world, second only to terrestrial rainforests;

Whereas, the Philippines has rich mangrove resources, with 40 of the world's 51 species of mangrove growing along the coastal waters, rivers and its tributaries;

Whereas, the country's mangroves are now threatened and the 450,000-hectare mangrove areas in 1918 have been reduced to only 50,000 hectares at present, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);

Whereas, mangroves contribute to coastal protection, erosion control, sediment stabilization, flood regulation, nutrient supply and regeneration, treatment of dissolved and particulate wastes, and habitats for wildlife;

Whereas, the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau of the DENR said that mangrove deforestation in the Philippines is 80 to 90 per cent, which is higher than the deforestation rate of 60 to 70 per cent in Asia;

Whereas, the reduction of mangroves can be attributed to overexploitation by coastal dwellers, and conversion to settlements, agriculture, salt beds and industry;

Whereas, aquaculture or commercial fish farming was pointed out to be the major cause of declining mangroves in the Philippines, with about 140,000 hectares converted into fishponds from 1951 to 1988;

Whereas, according to experts, mangrove reforestation is a very important climate-change adaptation measure;

Whereas, the effort toward restoring lost mangroves in the Philippines has been commendably immense, specifically during the past two decades;

Whereas, replanting strategies, however, proved to be unsuccessful because people are planting propagules or mangrove seedlings in the wrong places;

Whereas, biologists Maricar Samson and Rene Rollon of the University of the Philippines report that surveys of more than 70 restoration sites often found mostly dead, dying, or "dismally stunted" trees;

Whereas, the replanting of mangroves on the coasts of the Philippines could help save many of the lives lost in the 20-30 typhoons that hit the islands annually;

Whereas, more rational focus of the restoration effort should be the replanting of mangroves in brackish-water aquaculture pond environments, the original habitat of mangroves: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the depletion of mangroves in the Philippines with the end in view of improving strategies in mangrove forest management.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
Senator