


SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 1398

FILED IN 1398 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES, TO REVIEW THE 1997 PHILIPPINE BAMBOO MASTER PLAN FOR PURPOSES OF CRAFTING LEGISLATION THAT WILL ADVANCE THE GROWTH OF OUR BAMBOO INDUSTRY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Whereas, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) included bamboo in its reforestation and watershed rehabilitation program per DENR AO No. 31 series of 1991;

Whereas, the Master Plan for the Development of Bamboo as a Renewable and Sustainable Resource was introduced in 1997 by the Cottage Industry Technology Center-Department of Trade and Industry;

Whereas, there are 62 species of bamboo grown in the Philippines, 21 of which are endemic to the country;

Whereas, bamboo has over 1,500 documented uses ranging from food to building materials;

Whereas, bamboo also has the potential to preserve the forests and contribute to the conservation of biodiversity;

Whereas, bamboo trees contribute 10 times more oxygen than normal trees;

Whereas, bamboo can control soil erosion and stabilize riverbanks;

Whereas, a bamboo tree can last 100 years and is self-generating;

Whereas, studies have shown that one hectare of bamboo plantation can sequester up to 12 tons of carbon per year;

Whereas, the country has only about 52,000 hectares of land planted to bamboos at present, with hardly any replanting, according to the Philippine Bamboo Foundation (PBF);

Whereas, world trade on bamboo and bamboo products was estimated at \$12 billion in 2002 and was growing at \$2 billion yearly;

Whereas, China, the top global supplier of bamboos, may be running out of bamboos in the next 4 years, opening an opportunity for Filipino farmers to engage in bamboo farming and cultivation;

Whereas, a one-hectare bamboo plantation can potentially earn for a farmer roughly P300,000 per year;

Whereas, export earnings for bamboo-based products such as handicrafts, furniture and furnishings in global markets remain strong in developed countries like the US and Europe;

Whereas, the ecological benefits of growing bamboo are as immense as its economic value: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Food, Environment and Natural Resources and other appropriate committees, to review the 1997 Philippine Bamboo Master Plan for purposes of crafting legislation that will advance the growth of our bamboo industry within the context of sustainable development.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR
Senator