

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 740

RECEIVED BY: *f*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON PROTECTING THE COUNTRY'S POPULAR TOURIST SPOTS FOR MOUNTAINEERING, BASED ON THE REPORT THAT 2.6 TONS OF GARBAGE LEFT BY MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS WERE COLLECTED IN MT. APO

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 states: "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, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* reported last 20 Jun2 2014 that some 2.6 tons of garbage left by mountain climbers were collected from Mt. Apo during a cleanup drive;

WHEREAS, Joey Recimilla, Kidapawan City tourism chief chairman of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) committee on eco-tourism, reportedly said that the bad habits of Mt. Apo climbers that have been destroying the natural beauty of the country's highest peak must be stopped;

WHEREAS, Remicilla reportedly said that littering in Mt. Apo is a total disregard of PAMB's desire to keep the flora and fauna of the national park healthy;

WHEREAS, it was reported that nonbiodegradable materials were common among the garbage collected such as candy wrappers, cellophane, empty plastic water bottles, and even included sanitary napkins and cigarette butts;

WHEREAS, Recimilla reportedly said he was saddened by finding non-biodegradable materials along various trails and at the peak of Mt. Apo, and that these non-biodegradable waste will destroy the forest, and eventually destroy the natural beauty of Mt. Apo;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the Kidapawan City tourism office has scheduled several mountain climbing activities and, according to Recimilla, his office has not been remiss in reminding participants that their adventure should be accompanied by responsibility;

WHEREAS, Recimilla reportedly said climbers were discouraged from bringing breakable bottles up in the mountain to avoid accidents that may cause injuries to other climbers;

WHEREAS, Recimilla also reportedly said that despite cleaning up operations in Mt. Apo, the amount of garbage collected this year was tremendous;

WHEREAS, to address the issue, it was reported that local government units surrounding Mt. Apo have been considering the idea of coming up with one trail for climbing and descending the mountain, instead of the five or six trails that climbers use at present in reaching the peak;

WHEREAS, Congress should strengthen the government's policy of protecting the country's natural treasures while providing venues for tourism;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on protecting the country's popular tourist spots for mountaineering, based on the report that 2.6 tons of garbage left by mountain climbers were collected in Mt. Apo.

Adopted.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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