

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1002

RECEIVED BY: *J.*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED ATTEMPTS OF VICE PRESIDENT JEJOMAR BINAY TO TRANSFER THE OWNERSHIP OF PART OF MT. MAKILING TO THE BOY SCOUTS OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 12, Section 3 provides: "...Taking into account the requirements of conservation, ecology, and development, and subject to the requirements of agrarian reform, the Congress shall determine, by law, the size of lands of the public domain which may be acquired, developed, held, or leased and the conditions therefor";

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 6967, Section 1 states that: "The entire forest reserve at Mt. Makiling in Laguna ceded, transferred and conveyed to the University of the Philippines pursuant to Republic Act No. 3523 shall be administered and conserved primarily as a training laboratory for the advancement of scientific and technical knowledge particularly in the preservation, conservation and development of our forest, flora and fauna, and natural resources";

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 6967 states further, in Section 2, that: "The exclusive jurisdiction, administration and complete control of said forest reserve are hereby vested in the University of the Philippines in Los Baños";

WHEREAS, Inquirer.net, in its 2 November 2014 report, said that Vice President Jejomar Binay allegedly made several attempts to acquire control of the 57.7-hectare lot on Mt. Makiling that the Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP) is leasing from the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB);

WHEREAS, Binay is the longest-serving president of the BSP, having been elected by the scouting board in 1994;

WHEREAS, several former and incumbent UPLB officials reportedly disclosed in separate interviews attempts by Binay to carve out the BSP Jamboree site from the 4,244-hectare Makiling forest reserve;

WHEREAS, a UPLB source privy to the management of the Makiling forest reserve reportedly said that there have already been three attempts by Binay, through Congress, to have the property's ownership transferred to the BSP;

WHEREAS, UPLB records showed that three bills have been filed in the House of Representatives in relation to the attempted transfer of jurisdiction over the Makiling property to the BSP;

WHEREAS, the most recent proposal to transfer control over the Makiling property is House Bill No. 6352, or the "Boy Scouts of the Philippines Charter of 2012," authored by Makati Rep. Abigail Binay;

WHEREAS, two earlier proposals were House Bill Nos. 4765 and 3005, both authored by former Marikina Rep. and now Marikina Mayor Del de Guzman, allegedly an ally of the Binays and formerly a council chair of BSP Metro Manila East;

WHEREAS, Sanchez said that chunking out the forest reserve might set a precedent for other stakeholders like local governments to claim a piece of the Makiling forest;

WHEREAS, the UPLB Chancellor added that the BSP has been offered another UPLB land grant in Siniloan town, Laguna province;

WHEREAS, JR Pangilinan, regional director of the BSP's Asia-Pacific committee, reportedly said that the move for autonomy in administering the property was initiated by the BSP national council and not an attempt by Binay to take full control of the jamboree site;

WHEREAS, Congress should intensify existing legislation to protect the welfare of state universities, including UPLB, by ensuring that land allocation to these institutions are properly used;

WHEREAS, Congress should ensure that existing legislation on forest reserves such as Mount Makiling are being strictly followed;

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 alleged attempts of Vice President Jejomar Binay to transfer ownership of part of Mt. Makiling to the Boy Scouts of the Philippines from the University of the Philippines.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO