

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

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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 710

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RESOLUTION
URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REHABILITATION OF BANAUE RICE TERRACES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FORMULATING POLICIES TO PROMOTE ITS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates that 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;¹

WHEREAS, the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates that the State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations;²

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10666, otherwise known as the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009, provides for the protection, preservation, conservation, and promotion of the national cultural heritage sites;

WHEREAS, the world famous Banaue Rice Terraces, located in the mountainous region of Luzon in the province of Ifugao, is a 2,000 year old living cultural landscape of

¹ Article II, Section 16

² Article XIV, Section 15

hand carved terraced fields and intricate irrigation systems, and often hailed as the eight wonder of the world;

WHEREAS, the Banaue Rice Terraces is approximately 20,100 km if laid end to end, long enough to stretch halfway around the globe;³

WHEREAS, the Banaue Rice Terraces was declared as a National Cultural Treasure in 1973 through Presidential Decree No. 260 and in 1978 through Presidential Decree No. 1505;

WHEREAS, the Banaue Rice Terraces was declared "World Heritage Site" by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) in 1995;

WHEREAS, the Banaue Rice Terraces is among the number one tourist destination in the northern Philippines;

WHEREAS, the Banaue Rice Terraces however is in danger amid its worsening condition brought about by culturally insensitive policies, weak farming management, unplanned expansion, and occasional disruption from tourists;⁴

WHEREAS, a report from Rappler showed that there were more than 300 hectares of abandoned terraces in 2016 amounting to a loss of as much as Php100 Million in yearly revenue from rice harvests;⁵

WHEREAS, the unparalleled beauty that is Banaue Rice Terraces is an enduring cultural legacy and a priceless contribution of Philippine ancestors to the modern world;

WHEREAS, Congress must look into ongoing efforts to protect, restore, and rehabilitate the UNESCO heritage site;

WHEREAS, a review must be conducted as to whether Environmental Impact Assessments on any infrastructure project being planned in the area is institutionalized;

WHEREAS, Congress, together with concerned government agencies and local stakeholders, must pursue the creation of a comprehensive rehabilitation plan to ensure the sustainability of this living cultural landscape over time;

³ Dilger, M. & Hizon, R. (April 13, 2018). The Philippines' 2,000-year-old engineering feat. BBC News. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.com/travel/gallery/20180412-the-philippines-2000-year-old-engineering-feat>

⁴ Buan, L. (March 13, 2017). Visiting the Ifugao rice terraces? A few things to reflect on. Rappler News. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/life-and-style/travel/ph-travel/163963-ifugao-rice-terraces-reflection-remember>

⁵ Ibid.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the rehabilitation of Banaue Rice Terraces with the end in view of formulating policies to promote its sustainable development.

Adopted,


GRACE POE