



SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 795

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 STATUS OF ARROCEROS FOREST PARK FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF GREEN SPACES IN THE ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEVERE POLLUTION

1 WHEREAS, the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates that it is the policy of the
2 State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology
3 in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;¹

4 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 5752, otherwise known as the Municipal and City
5 Forests, Tree Parks, and Watersheds Act, mandates municipalities and cities to exert
6 efforts to establish, develop, and maintain a permanent forest, tree parks, or watershed
7 within public land owned by such municipality or city;

8 WHEREAS, the Arroceros Forest Park is one of the remaining forested areas and
9 considered the last lung of Manila;

¹ Article II, Section 16

1 WHEREAS, the 2.2 hectare forest park located beside Pasig river at the foot of
2 Quezon Bridge is home to 61 different tree varieties, 8,000 ornamental plants, and 10
3 different bird species;²

4 WHEREAS, aside from being an oasis of fresh air in the bustling metropolis, the
5 Arroceros Forest Park is a historic district as it was once a major trading post between
6 Filipino dealers, and Malay and Chinese traders in the 16th and 17th centuries;³

7 WHEREAS, reports surfaced that the forest park is now a dumpsite of impounded
8 vehicles;⁴

9 WHEREAS, it was also reported that there are plans to convert the forest park into
10 a sports and recreation facility;⁵

11 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends the nine square
12 meters of green space per person in cities;⁶

13 WHEREAS, WHO further recommends that all urban citizens live within a 15 minute
14 walk to green space;⁷

15 WHEREAS, green spaces such as the Arroceros Forest Park is the answer to the
16 warming effect brought about by the never ending concrete sprawl and the soaring
17 pollution levels in mega cities like Manila;

18 WHEREAS, efforts towards conserving and sustaining this precious patch of green
19 should be pursued as the key to improved quality of urban life;

² Yamzon, K. (Dec. 9, 2017). Green group inspects Manila parks amid plan to remove Arroceros Park. Manila Today. Retrieved from <http://www.manilatoday.net/green-group-inspects-manila-parks-amid-plan-remove-arroceros-park/>

³ Atienza, N. (Sept. 18, 2017). Tearing down Manila's 'last lung.' Inquirer News. Retrieved from <http://opinion.inquirer.net/107196/tearing-manilas-last-lung>

⁴ Cabuenas, J. V. (Aug. 13, 2017). Forest caretakers to Manila LGU: Remove cars, stop gym construction. GMA News Online. Retrieved from <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/621717/forest-caretakers-to-manila-lgu-remove-cars-stop-gym-construction/story/>

⁵ Subingsubing, K. (Nov. 19, 2017). Missing the forest for the gym. Inquirer. Retrieved from <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/946092/missing-the-forest-for-the-gym>

⁶ Karayannis, G. (Nov. 19, 2014). Dissecting ISO 37120: Why shady planning is good for smart cities . Smart Cities Council. Retrieved from <https://smartcitiescouncil.com/article/dissecting-iso-37120-why-shady-planning-good-smart-cities>

⁷ Pafi, M., Siragusa, A. Ferri, S. & Halkia, M. (2016). Measuring the Accessibility of Urban Green Areas. A comparison of the Green ESM with other datasets in four European cities. European Commission. Retrieved from http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC102525/190916_siragusa_%20jrc_techrep_accessibility_online.pdf

1 WHEREAS, an inventory of forest parks in urban cities should likewise be
2 conducted to identify areas with precious patches of green and formulate necessary
3 measures towards their protection, conservation, and sustainment;

4 WHEREAS, the Congress should look into legislating laws that mandates the
5 creation of green spaces;

6 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the
7 Philippines, to direct the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to
8 conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the status of Arroceros Forest Park for the
9 protection and conservation of green spaces in the era of climate change and severe
10 pollution.

11 Adopted,


GRACE POE