

SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
THIRTEENTH CONGRESS '04 DEC 13 P5:25

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

P.S. RESOLUTION NO. _____

145

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator M.A. Madrigal

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMMUNITIES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY ON THE CONTINUING THREATENED DISPLACEMENT OF TWO HUNDRED (200) INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE ISLAND OF BORACAY, PROVINCE OF AKLAN DESPITE THEIR ANCESTRAL DOMAIN CLAIMS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FORMULATING POLICY MEASURES THAT WOULD RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF THE CULTURAL COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the Atis are the original inhabitants of the island of Boracay in the province of Aklan;

WHEREAS, due to the rapid economic activity and commercialization of the whole island, the Atis who have laid their claims over certain portions of the Island are allegedly now being evicted from their respective areas to give way for the development and construction of another facility catering to the tourism industry;

WHEREAS, such claims to evict the indigenous peoples of boracay island are based on purported documents of ownership, such as but not limited to tax declarations;

WHEREAS, the Island of Boracay is classified as a Forest Land and cannot therefore be subject of appropriation. It cannot also be converted for non-forestry uses by the Executive branch of government.

WHEREAS, the 200 or so indigenous peoples currently live in huts, clustered on a hectare of coconut shaded land in Sitio Balabog, Island of Boracay, Aklan;

WHEREAS, Republic Act 8371 otherwise known as the "Indigenous Peoples Rights Act" mandates as a state policy the protection of the rights of ICCs/IPs to their ancestral domains to ensure their economic, social and cultural well being and shall recognize the applicability of customary laws governing property rights or relations in determining the ownership and extent of ancestral domain;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Senate Committee on Cultural Communities to conduct an inquiry on the continuing threatened displacement of two hundred (200) indigenous peoples in the Island of Boracay, Province of Aklan despite their ancestral domain claims with the end of view of formulating policy that would respect the rights of the cultural communities.


M.A. MADRIGAL