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**SENATE**

**P.S. Res. No. 257**

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**INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS**

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**A RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL  
COMMUNITIES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION  
INTO THE DISPLACEMENT OF AETAS AND OTHER INDIGENOUS  
COMMUNITIES IN AREAS COVERED BY THE NEW CLARK CITY DEVELOPMENT  
PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Constitution, in Article XII, Section 5 clearly provides that "The State, subject to the provision of the Constitution and national development policies and programs shall protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to their ancestral lands to ensure their economic, social, and cultural well-being";

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Constitution again affirms these rights in Article XIV, Section 17 stating that, "The State shall recognize, respect, and protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to preserve and develop their cultures, traditions, and institutions. It shall consider these rights in the formulation of national plans and policies";

**WHEREAS**, Chapter III, Section 7 (c) of Republic Act 8371, also known as the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997 stipulates that no indigenous cultural community/indigenous peoples "shall be relocated without their free and prior informed consent, nor through any means other than eminent domain";

**WHEREAS**, in 2015 the government approved what was then called the "Clark Green City" (it is now known as the New Clark City or NCC) development project under the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA). It is a 9,450-hectare master-planned property within the Clark Special Economic Zone<sup>1</sup> envisioned to be the first smart and green city in the country;

**WHEREAS**, there is an estimated 15,000 local farmers and 20,000 Aeta and Abelling indigenous communities likely to be affected by the project<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, a research project of the University of Glasgow in partnership with the University of the Philippines called the "Counter-mapping for Peri-urban Social Justice" that includes satellite imagery revealed that in 18 months since the NCC project started development in the area, hectares and hectares of green have been converted into concrete, and in the process displacing people from their homes and livelihood<sup>3</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/business/industries/175-real-estate/97560-ayala-filinvest-megaworld-clark-green-city>

<sup>2</sup> <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1198637/aeta-group-says-bcda-wants-them-out-of-lands-for-new-clark-city>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid



**WHEREAS**, on 29 November 2019, in the middle of the festivities of the 2019 Southeast Asian Games, of which New Clark City served as its main hub, the BCDA served a notice of eviction to residents of Barangay Aranguren, in Capas, Tarlac to give way to the construction of a road connecting Clark International Airport to New Clark City<sup>4</sup>. They were given seven (7) days to leave and demolish their homes;

**WHEREAS**, the eviction notice claimed that the land they occupied is government-owned, and will be used for the greater good;

**WHEREAS**, in news articles about the pending eviction, Casimira Maniego, leader of the Asosasyon ng mga Katutubo sa Mahawang in Capas said that around 500 Aeta families would be displaced, and that they are rejecting the notice. They are also rejecting any offer of payment in exchange for vacating their ancestral lands as they and their ancestors have been occupying and tilling the land since pre-colonial times<sup>5</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, in response, the BCDA maintained that it followed due process by consulting with the Capas local government, and that they are offering a financial assistance package amounting to PhP 300,000 per hectare or PhP 30 per square meter<sup>6</sup>;


**WHEREAS**, while the BCDA likewise claimed that there are no declared ancestral domains or Certificates of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADT) in the area, the Aeta Hungey community has an application for a CADT for 18,000 hectares in Capas, Tarlac since 1999, and has since applied a second (2014) and third (May 2019) time<sup>7</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the BCDA's claim of an absence of CADTs obscures a most egregious fact, that of the enormous difficulties IP communities face in securing official documents to prove their ownership of their ancestral land;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to ensure the protection of Aetas and other indigenous communities from unjust expulsion from a land that has served as their home and have tilled since time immemorial.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT, RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, TO URGE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMMUNITIES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE DISPLACEMENT OF AETAS AND OTHER INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN AREAS COVERED BY THE NEW CLARK CITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.**

Adopted.

  
**RISA HONTIVEROS**  
Senator

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2019/12/05/1974513/bcda-aeta-eviction-notice-no-forcible-demolition-new-clark-city>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>7</sup> <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1139364/new-clark-city-development-for-whom>