



**SENATE**  
**P. S. Res No. 342**

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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES, TO CONDUCT AN**  
**INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED URGENT CALL FOR**  
**GOVERNMENT ACTION OF THE MASUNGI GEORESERVE FOUNDATION,**  
**AFTER A SECTION OF THE REFORESTATION SITE HAD BEEN BLOCKED BY**  
**A QUARRY COMPANY**

1 WHEREAS, Ecotourism and Conservation site Masungi Georeserve appealed  
2 for swift action from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR),  
3 after a quarry company had fenced off at least 500 hectares of government  
4 forestland that was being prepared for reforestation<sup>1</sup>;

5 WHEREAS, the Masungi Georeserve is a conservation area and rustic rock  
6 garden tucked in the rainforests of Rizal. Masungi's name is derived from the word  
7 "masungki" which translates to "spiked" – an apt description for the sprawling  
8 limestone found within<sup>2</sup>;

9 WHEREAS, In 2019, United Nations' World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)  
10 recognized Masungi Georeserve as one of the world's most sustainable and  
11 innovative tourism projects. In 2018, they received a special commendation at the  
12 UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UN-CBD)<sup>3</sup>;

13 WHEREAS, according to Billie Dumaliang, Masungi Georeserve trustee and  
14 advocacy officer, this move by the quarry company will cut us off from reforesting

<sup>1</sup> Inquirer News Website, DENR help sought in protecting Rizal nature park from quarrying, <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1235966/denr-help-sought-in-protecting-rizal-nature-park-from-quarrying>

<sup>2</sup> Masungi Georeserve Website, About Masungi Georeserve, <https://www.masungigeoreserve.com/>

<sup>3</sup> Manila Bulletin News Website, 'Our trees are bleeding': Quarry operations affect conservation efforts of Masungi Georeserve, <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/02/29/our-trees-are-bleeding-quarry-operations-affect-conservation-efforts-of-masungi-georeserve/>

1 some 500 hectares of heavily degraded land in the northwest portion of the project  
2 site<sup>1</sup>;

3 WHEREAS, the area is part of the Upper Marikina Watershed and the  
4 proposed Masungi Strict Nature Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary where extractive  
5 activities are banned<sup>2</sup>;

6 WHEREAS, the DENR issued Administrative Order 33 series of 1993 declaring  
7 Masungi as a strict nature reserve and wildlife sanctuary. Under the said  
8 administrative order, the area is off-limits to mining location, exploration,  
9 development and exploitation and other activities which might affect adversely the  
10 habitat and the ecological balance in the area<sup>3</sup>;

11 WHEREAS, according to Masungi Georeserve, it was not the first time that it  
12 had collided with the company<sup>4</sup>;

13 WHEREAS, with the continued threats to the country's ecological sites and  
14 natural habitats, it is imperative for the Government to look into the matter and  
15 ensure that these sites are protected and preserved for generations;

16 BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, directing the proper Senate  
17 committees, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported urgent call  
18 for government action of the Masungi Georeserve Foundation, after a section of the  
19 reforestation site had been blocked by a quarry company.

20 Adopted,

  
**MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**  
Senator

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<sup>4</sup> Manila Bulletin News Website, 'Our trees are bleeding': Quarry operations affect conservation efforts of Masungi Georeserve, <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/02/29/our-trees-are-bleeding-quarry-operations-affect-conservation-efforts-of-masungi-georeserve/>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Philstar News Website, Masungi Georeserve asks gov't help to protect conservation site from quarrying, <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/03/03/1997779/masungi-georeserve-asks-govt-help-protect-conservation-site-quarrying>