

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

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SENATE 292
Resolution No. _____

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMMUNITIES TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE ALLEGED EVICTION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FROM THEIR ANCESTRAL DOMAINS IN THE BANAUE RICE TERRACES TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM'S PLAN TO BOOST TOURISM IN THE AREA

WHEREAS, a National Consultation on Indigenous Peoples's Agenda on Food Security was held last June 2005 at the Bahay Ugnayan, Good Shepherd Convent, Aurora Blvd., Quezon City;

WHEREAS, after the consultation, various indigenous peoples' groups submitted to our office complaints on the many oppressions their respective groups were currently experiencing;

WHEREAS, one of the complainants was a group of indigenous peoples living in the Banaue Rice Terraces;

WHEREAS, the indigenous peoples living in the Banaue Rice Terraces received a letter from the office of Governor Benjamin Cappleman of Ifugao and the office of Mayor Jerry Dalipog of Banaue, Ifugao sometime April 2005 asking them to leave their houses situated in the rice terraces as well as their business establishments, showcasing wood carvings and native products, situated along the sides of the streets;

WHEREAS, according to the letter, their houses, as well as their business establishments, are eyesores and do not sit well with the Department of Tourism's plan to boost tourism in the area;

WHEREAS, Section 22, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that the State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development;

WHEREAS, Section 2, paragraph (b) of Republic Act No. 8371 or the Indigenous Peoples Rights provides that the State shall protect 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;

WHEREAS, Section 2, paragraph (c) of the same law provides that the State shall recognize, respect and protect the rights of ICCs/ IPs to preserve and develop their cultures, traditions and institutions. It shall consider these rights in the formulation of national laws and policies;

WHEREAS, Section 2, paragraph (e) of the same law provides that the State shall take measures, with the participation of the ICCs/ IPs concerned, to protect their rights and guarantee respect for their cultural integrity, and to ensure that members of the ICCs/IPs benefit on an equal footing from the rights and opportunities which national laws and regulations grant to other members of the population;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, directing the Committee on Cultural Communities to investigate, in aid of legislation, the alleged eviction of indigenous peoples from their ancestral domains in the Banaue Rice Terraces to pave the way for the Department of Tourism's plan to boost tourism in the area.

Adopted,


M. A. MADRIGAL