

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

6 MAY -2 AM 12:30

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: llh

P.S. Resolution No. 480

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*Introduced by Senator M.A Madrigal*

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**A RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PRIVATIZATION OF A 59 HECTARE PORTION OF THE LA MESA RESERVATION AREA FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING HOUSING UNITS THEREIN, WHICH POSES CLEAR AND IMMINENT DANGER TO THE WATER SUPPLY OF METRO MANILA, AND EXPOSE THE MOST VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF THE POPULATION CONSISTING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO WATER CONTAMINATION, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING APPROPRIATE REMEDIAL LEGISLATION**

**WHEREAS**, Section 16, Article II of the Constitution declares that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

**WHEREAS**, it is the right of every Filipino, particularly those in Metro Manila to have unimpeded access to clean, safe drinking water, the primary source of which is in the La Mesa Reservoir and Watershed;

**WHEREAS**, on 25 February 2006, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) executed a Deed of Absolute Sale allegedly with the 1, 141 awardees of the NAWASA Employees Housing Project represented by one-Genaro C, Bautista in the amount of Three Million Pesos (P3,000,000.00);

**WHEREAS**, this agreement if executed would unduly endanger the largest remaining forest of its size in Metro Manila and prejudice the right of those living in Metro Manila to unimpeded access to clean, safe drinking water;

**WHEREAS**, this fact is supported by the study made by the National Hydraulic Center Research Center of the University of the Philippines' College of Engineering.

**WHEREAS**, on March 24, 2004, a study commissioned by the MWSS entitled "***A Study of the Effects of the Proposed MWSS Housing Project on the La Mesa Watershed and Reservoir***", conducted by the National Hydraulic Research Center, UP College of Engineering, Diliman, Quezon City, stated in its official final recommendation that, among others, "***It will be in the best interest of MWSS and the general public who eventually utilize for drinking the water in the La Mesa Reservoir that the 58 hectares of the La Mesa***

**watershed area being proposed for the MWSS Housing project shall remain a protected watershed area and not be converted to a housing project area”.**

**WHEREAS**, there is an imperative need to seriously reassess the implications of the privatization of the portion of the La Mesa Watershed and Reservoir on the water supply of Metro Manila, taking into consideration the plight of the most affected, the women and children,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, TO DIRECT THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PRIVATIZATION OF A 59 HECTARE PORTION OF THE LA MESA RESERVATION AREA FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING HOUSING UNITS THEREIN, WHICH POSES CLEAR AND IMMINENT DANGER TO THE WATER SUPPLY OF METRO MANILA, AND EXPOSE THE MOST VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF THE POPULATION CONSISTING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO WATER CONTAMINATION, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING APPROPRIATE REMEDIAL LEGISLATION**

Adopted,

  
**M.A. MADRIGAL**