


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

6 MAY 15 2006

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P.S. Resolution No. 481

*Introduced by Senator M.A Madrigal*

**A RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMMUNITIES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS EFFECTS OF BT CORN FARMING ON THE LIVES OF MANGYANS, MEMBERS OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES WHO ARE ENGAGED IN ORGANIC AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NAUJAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING APPROPRIATE REMEDIAL LEGISLATION**

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

**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**, Section 2, paragraph (c) of Republic Act 8371, or the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA), provides that the State shall recognize, respect and protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to preserve and develop their cultures, traditions and institutions, and that it shall consider these rights in the formulation of national laws and policies;

**WHEREAS**, the Mangyans are indigenous to Oriental Mindoro;

**WHEREAS**, since time immemorial, the Mangyans have engaged in organic and sustainable farming in Oriental Mindoro, farming being one of the major sources of livelihood for the Mindoro populace;

**WHEREAS**, the Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro, through Governor Arnan C. Panaligan, issued Memorandum Circular 150-05 dated 12 October 2005 reiterating that Provincial Ordinance No. 003-2004, otherwise known as the Environment Code of the Province of Oriental Mindoro, enacted by the

Sangguniang Panlalawigan on 21 June 2004, prohibits the entry of genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) in any area of the province;

**WHEREAS**, Greenpeace, a global environmental organization, reports that organic and sustainable farming of the Mangyans in the municipality of Naujan, Oriental Mindoro is being threatened with the blatant entry of Bt corn farming by Monsanto, an American company, despite the provincial government's prohibition on the entry of GMOs in Oriental Mindoro;

**WHEREAS**, Bt corn's name is derived from the gene inserted in the genetic make-up of the corn plant which came from a common soil bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, and is a genetically-modified organism that is supposed to handle the Asiatic corn borer (ACB) *Ostrinia furnacalis* (Guenee) which causes as much as 30-50% yield reduction according to a publication by SEAMEO SEARCA, Biotechnology Information Center, University of the Philippines Los Baños;

**WHEREAS**, widespread concern has been echoed regarding the adverse, long-term effects of GMOs in the health of humans as well as to the environment;

**WHEREAS**, the fragile and often undermined indigenous communities of the Mangyans in the area are being threatened with the entry of GMOs in the province, in blatant disregard of their rights to self-governance, empowerment, and cultural integrity as enshrined in Republic Act 8371 or the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA);

**WHEREAS**, there is an imperative need to investigate the entry of Monsanto in Oriental Mindoro to actively promote Bt corn farming despite the provincial ban on GMOs and for their blatant disregard of the province's local governance, much to the detriment of the local communities, most especially the indigenous communities of the Mangyans;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, TO DIRECT THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMMUNITIES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS EFFECTS OF BT CORN FARMING ON THE LIVES OF MANGYANS, MEMBERS OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES WHO ARE ENGAGED IN ORGANIC AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NAUJAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING APPROPRIATE REMEDIAL LEGISLATION.**

Adopted,



**M.A. MADRIGAL**