

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session

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SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 558

RECEIVED BY: [Signature]

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay, Jr.

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, AND CULTURAL COMMUNITIES TO CONDUCT AN IMMEDIATE INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED ILLEGAL MINING ACTIVITIES BEING CONDUCTED IN THE CAVES OF THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL SITE OF BIAK- NA-BATO, A PLACE OF PRIDE, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING POLICIES TO AID IN ITS FURTHER PRESERVATION

Whereas, the caves of Biak-na-Bato, presently located in the Municipality of San Miguel, Bulacan, is a place of pride for Filipinos having served as the refuge of *katipuneros*, led by the valiant Andres Bonifacio, when they fought for Philippine independence against the Spanish government;

Whereas, the signing of the "Pact of Biak-na-Bato" which resulted in the temporary halt of hostilities between the Spanish military and Filipino forces, took place in these same caves in 1897;

Whereas, in light of the caves' great historical and cultural value to our nation's heritage, President Manuel L. Quezon issued Proclamation No. 223 in 1937, declaring 2117 hectares of the area as Biak-na-Bato National Historical Park, thus making it a protected area;

Whereas, after its declaration as a national historical site, it was discovered that the rocks found in the area are rare deposits of exquisite rose-colored and expensive marbles;

Whereas, accordingly, many groups have attempted to make profit from the said historical site by conducting mining activities, one of which is Rosemoor Mining Development Corporation (RMDC);

Whereas, RMDC was the only group granted by the Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau (MGB), an attached agency to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), a Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) and an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC);

Whereas, according to concerned and surrounding communities from San Miguel, San Isidro, Malolos and Hagonoy, the mining activities of Rosemoor have substantially contributed to the deterioration of this highly significant national and historical site;

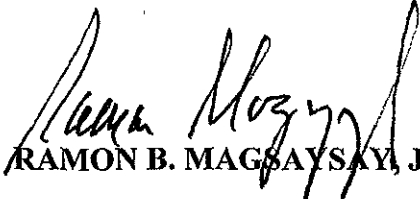
Whereas, Section 15, Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that, "X x x. The State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations.";

Whereas, Section 16 of the same article further states, "All the country's artistic and historic wealth constitutes the cultural treasure of the nation and shall be under the protection of the State which may regulate its disposition.";

Whereas, it is imperative to inquire, verify and investigate how such activities have been allowed to continue as they may result in the total of one of our few and remaining national edifices that will link our people today and in the future to our cherished past;

Resolved, by the Senate of the Philippines, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate Committees on Environment and Natural Resources, and Cultural Communities to conduct an immediate inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported illegal mining activities being conducted in the caves of the National Historical Site of Biak-na-Bato, a place of pride, with the end in view of recommending policies to aid in its further preservation

Adopted,


RAMON B. MAGSAYSAY, JR.