

**FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE }  
 REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }  
*First Regular Session* }**

7 NOV 12 1932

SENATE

RECEIVED BY:         

P. S. Res. No. 199

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*Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal*

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMMUNITIES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PLANNED RESUMPTION OF THE LAIBAN DAM PROJECT IN THE SIERRA MADRE MOUNTAIN RANGE THAT WAS SCUTTLED DURING THE MARCOS ERA AND WHICH WILL DISPLACE THOUSANDS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND IRRETRIEVABLY DESTROY THEIR ANCESTRAL LANDS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE, AFFECTING THEIR VERY SURVIVAL AS A PEOPLE**

WHEREAS the Manila Waterworks and Sewage System (MWSS) plans to resume the construction of the 113-meter high Laiban Dam in the areas of Tanay, Rizal and General Nakar, Quezon, that is part of the Sierra Madre mountain range and that was scuttled during the Marcos era;

WHEREAS the Laiban, then known as the "Kaliwa Kanan" (left-right), refers to the river that traverses along the slopes of the Sierra Madre and into the Pacific shoreline on the side of Quezon province. During the Marcos presidency from the 1960s to mid-1980s, the dam project was envisioned to be a part of the Industrial Complex Plan in North Eastern Luzon but, due to strong opposition, Marcos and his developers failed to push through with the project, leaving only two diversion tunnels;

WHEREAS the Macapagal-Arroyo administration has identified Laiban Dam as a priority project, with financial assistance worth \$1 billion from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), to give water supply, ensure flood control and provide hydropower;

WHEREAS as a result of the resumption of the Laiban Dam Project in the boundary of Rizal and Quezon provinces, several low-lying barangays will be obliterated as these will be submerged in water;

WHEREAS an estimated 10,000 members of the Dumagat and Remontado indigenous cultural communities and upland settlers will be displaced by the construction of the Laiban Dam;

WHEREAS more indigenous and peasant families will further be displaced in order to make way for the construction of the targeted dam reservoir in the municipalities of Infanta and General Nakar, both in the province of Quezon;

WHEREAS the Laiban Dam Project aims to redirect 2,400 million liters of water daily, affecting the irrigation system of lowland peasants and indigenous peoples that will result in the failure of their crops, which is their main source of livelihood;

WHEREAS the construction of the Laiban Dam will further destroy over 20,000 hectares of forest cover in the Sierra Madre mountain range, causing irreversible disruption to the ecosystem, including the immediate possibility of landslides and similar disasters that could otherwise be avoided;

WHEREAS the government has not come up with a holistic plan that will accommodate the needs and preserve the ancient culture and heritage of the Dumagat and Remontado indigenous groups, totally excluding them from the development and progress that this project allegedly will bring;

WHEREAS these indigenous groups say that they have tended these lands long before any government was established, and that their ancestral land is "sacred to us but it is a mere commodity to the government";

WHEREAS there has been an alarming rise in troop deployment and recruitment of Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Units (CAFGU) in the areas of Infanta and General Nakar, Quezon, to quell rising opposition especially from among the Dumagat and Remontado tribes;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Committee on Cultural Communities to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the planned resumption of the Laiban Dam Project in the Sierra Madre mountain range that was scuttled during the Marcos era and which will displace thousands of indigenous peoples and irretrievably destroy their ancestral lands and cultural heritage, affecting their very survival as a people.

Adopted by,

  
M.A. Madrigal