


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SECRETARY

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY 

P.S. Res. No. 279

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION

COMMENDING THE SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR DESIGNATING ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN TRIAL COURTS AS ENVIRONMENTAL COURTS TO HEAR CASES INVOLVING VIOLATIONS OF LAWS PROTECTING THE COUNTRY'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Whereas, Section 5 (5), Article VIII of the Constitution empowers the Supreme Court to promulgate rules concerning the protection and enforcement of constitutional rights;

Whereas, Section 16, Article II states that "The State shall protect and promote the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

Whereas, Section 1, Article III states that "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the laws."

Whereas, pursuant to its Constitutional mandate to protect and enforce the abovementioned constitutional rights, the Supreme Court, in a resolution of the Court En Banc dated November 20, 2007, has designated one hundred seventeen (117) trial courts as special courts to hear cases involving violation of environmental laws;

Whereas, of the one hundred seventeen (117) environmental courts, forty-eight (48) are "first-level" courts and twenty-four (24) are "second-level" courts, while the remaining forty-five (45) were earlier designated as forestry courts;

Whereas, the designated first and second level courts will have jurisdiction to hear and decide environmental cases, including violations of the Fisheries Code and the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act, among others, except those cases within the jurisdiction of quasi-judicial bodies;

Whereas, the designation of "environmental courts" is one of judiciary's significant contributions to the conservation, protection and rehabilitation of our environment;

Whereas, the designation of environmental court is a welcome relief to party litigants whose environmental cases have been pending in court for years;

Whereas, no less than our Chief Justice, Reynato Puno, recognizes the importance of protecting the environment to support and sustain some of the most fundamental human rights, such as the rights to life and to well being;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines commend the Supreme Court of the Philippines for designating one-hundred seventeen trial courts as environmental courts to hear cases involving violation of laws protecting the country's natural resources.

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA
Senator