


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

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SENATE

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Introduced by Senator JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE IMPENDING CUTTING OFF OF ESTIMATED EIGHT HUNDRED TO THIRTEEN THOUSAND TREES IN CAMP JOHN HAY, BAGUIO CITY TO GIVE WAY TO THE EXPANSION OF THE EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE THEREIN WITH A PURPOSE OF ENACTING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION PARTICULARLY THE DECLARATION OF THE ENTIRE CITY OF BAGUIO AS AN ECO-TOURISM ZONE AND ESTABLISHING THE BOUNDARIES OF ITS STRICT PROTECTION AND BUFFER ZONES**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Baguio is the summer capital of the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, tourism is the primary industry and source of business in the City of Baguio;

**WHEREAS**, every year, millions of Filipino and foreign tourists visit the City of Baguio for its cool temperature and nice weather;

**WHEREAS**, Camp John Hay located in the City of Baguio with its thick forest cover consisting primarily of pine trees helps keep the cool temperature in Baguio City;

**WHEREAS**, the Bases Conversion and Development Authority entered into a Joint Venture Agreement with Camp John Hay Development Corporation for the development of around 300 hectares of Camp John Hay;

**WHEREAS**, Camp John Hay Development Corporation entered into a lease agreement with the Philippine Export Processing Zone for the establishment of an economic zone inside Camp John Hay;

**WHEREAS**, a news article appeared in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on April 19, 2008 states that PEZA plans to develop a 65,253 square meters of Camp John Hay land to host the expansion of aircraft parts manufacturer, Moog Controls Philippines, Inc.;

**WHEREAS**, PEZA and BCDA officials already inquired from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources the requirements for clearing a forest land;

**WHEREAS**, it is feared that 800 up to 13,000 trees will be cut if this development will push through;

**WHEREAS**, questions were raised on the legality of the lease agreement as well as the development of the area considering that the Camp John Hay is still classified as a Forest Land and yet to be reclassified as alienable and disposable;

**WHEREAS**, being a forest land, Camp John Hay is beyond the commerce of man and therefore cannot be leased for development without an act of Congress;

**WHEREAS**, it was reported that Camp John Hay is only one of the three wooded areas which are facing destruction due to high profile developments;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to prevent indiscriminate cutting of trees and destruction of forests in Baguio City to preserve its main tourist attraction: the fine weather which the trees help maintain;

**WHEREAS**, this kind of development is contrary to the nation's blueprint for sustainable development and poses a great threat to the environment;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to study the immediate passage of a law which will declare the entire City of Baguio as an exclusive eco-tourism zone so that future developments therein will be consistent with the said declaration;

**WHEREAS**, there is also a need to set the boundaries of the remaining forests of Baguio City and declare them as strict protection zones where no tree cutting shall be allowed and its peripheral areas as buffer zones where activities shall be regulated;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to direct the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and the Committee on Tourism to investigate, in aid of legislation, the impending cutting off of estimated eight hundred to thirteen thousand trees in Camp John Hay, Baguio City to give way to the expansion of the export processing zone therein with a purpose of enacting remedial legislation particularly the declaration of the entire City of Baguio as an eco-tourism zone and establishing the boundaries of its strict protection and buffer zones.

Adopted,



**JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**