

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

8 SEP -3 P3:51

SENATE

RECEIVED BY

P.S. RES NO. 615



---

Introduced by **SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO**

---

**A RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9154 ENTITLED "AN ACT ESTABLISHING MT. KANLA-ON LOCATED IN THE CITIES OF BAGO, LA CARLOTA, AND SAN CARLOS AND IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LA CASTELLANA AND MURCIA, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND IN THE CITY OF CANLAON AND MUNICIPALITY OF VALLEHERMOSO, BOTH IN THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS ORIENTAL, AS A PROTECTED AREA AND A PERIPHERAL AREA AS BUFFER ZONE PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING THE CONFINES OF THE LAW FOR THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT AND COUNTRY**

**WHEREAS**, based on news reports, the Province of Negros Occidental is said to be facing a looming power crisis by 2010;

**WHEREAS**, given the looming power shortage, the Province is pursuing independent and alternative sources of energy for the province;

**WHEREAS**, in pursuit thereof, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Negros Occidental, through a Resolution, approved the entry of PNOC-EDC into the buffer zone of the Mt. Kanlaon Natural Park (MKNP) after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources issued a Special Tree Cutting Permit on the area;

**WHEREAS**, the Special Tree Cutting Permit allows PNOC-EDC to cut "Four Thousand Two Hundred Thirteen (4,213) trees of various species of different sizes" "within the Twelve and Fifty Two (12.52) hectares development area" for the purpose of any geothermal exploration for or development of energy or mineral resources;

**WHEREAS**, on the basis of the Resolution approved by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, a Memorandum of Agreement between the Government of Negros Occidental and PNOC-EDC has been signed by the Governor;

**WHEREAS**, The Memorandum of Agreement allows PNOC-EDC to enter and explore the designated buffer zone provided it complies with the guidelines set forth therein;

**WHEREAS**, these permits have paved the way for PNOC-EDC to commence its tree-cutting activities and exploration of the area;

**WHEREAS**, environmentalists and concerned citizens who claim that the entry of PNOC-EDC will destroy the natural resources of Mt. Kanla-on which has been declared a protected area under Republic Act No. 9154, have raised an uproar and staged rallies opposing the said entry by PNOC-EDC;

**WHEREAS**, the interpretation of paragraph 2 of Section 5 of RA 9154 which states that "(a)ny geothermal exploration for or development of energy or mineral resources within the MKNP shall not be allowed except by an Act of Congress" is in question as to whether it applies only to the strict protection zone or the entire area mentioned in the law including the buffer zone;

**WHEREAS**, it is within the oversight powers of Congress to ensure that any implementation of a law should be within the confines of such law and should be for the best interest of all concerned;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Senate of the Philippines direct the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources and Energy to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the proper implementation of Republic Act No. 9154.

*Adopted,*

  
SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO