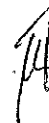


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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 814

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NEED TO LIMIT THE LANDS
USED FOR JATROPHA PLANTATIONS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 9 provides: "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 22 of the same states: "The State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* in its 10 December issue reported that the planting of jatropha, a plant use to manufacture biofuel, is displacing Mindanao food crops;

WHEREAS, it was reported that indigenous women leaders from Mindanao claimed that 500 hectares of agricultural land in Sarangani were used to grow jatropha and as a result, have displaced traditional food crops, such as corn, rice, banana and root crops, forcing members of the B'laan tribe to go hungry;

WHEREAS, Lorna Mora, a B'laan leader, reportedly said that although jatropha plantations may appeal as an immediate solution to the local energy problem, there are social effects that must be considered;

WHEREAS, Robert Domoguen, Department of Agriculture (DA) Cordillera information officer allegedly said that farmers tend to shift to planting jatropha because it seems more lucrative, resulting to lower food production;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that the DA has started to draft guidelines for converting farms into jatropha plantations and that the the DA and the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources are concluding an agreement on identifying zones for jatropha;

WHEREAS, although the State recognizes the need to harvest biofuel as an alternative source of energy, it is imperative that the State also protects and ensures the basic need of its people to eat;

WHEREAS, although the DA has already started to take steps on limiting the lands used for jatropha plantations, stronger and firmer legislative measures are needed to ensure that jatropha plantations do not exceed agricultural lands;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the reported need to limit the lands used for jatropha plantations.

Adopted,

acs *Miriam Defensor Santiago*
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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