

9 JAN 20 1979

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 836

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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 RENEWED ILLEGAL LOGGING ACTIVITIES
IN SIERRA MADRE AND THE FORMATION OF A CITIZENS' INDEPENDENT
INVESTIGATING TEAM TO PROBE THE POSSIBLE CORRUPTION THAT
ALLOWED SUCH PROHIBITED OPERATIONS TO CONTINUE

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16, states that, "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, various news agencies reported the renewed illegal logging activities in Sierra Madre that operated even during the Christmas season;

WHEREAS, officers of Task Force Sierra Madre claimed that illegally cut forest products were being slipped under the cloak of darkness through Tanay, Rizal;

WHEREAS, officials of the task force suggested the formation of an independent citizen's investigating team in Aurora and Quezon provinces to help assist in the government war against illegal loggers;

WHEREAS, Agta tribal leaders reportedly confirmed the return of illegal logging activities in Sierra Madre, and said that the government has not done anything to stop the illegal loggers who have become regular intruders in Sierra Madre despite media exposés;

WHEREAS, illegal logging has affected every facet of the indigenous peoples in the area, which includes the loss of their traditional hunting grounds for wild boar;

WHEREAS, the tribal leaders reportedly added that government officials and politicians are actively involved in the illegal forest activities but declined to name any official responsible;

WHEREAS, the persistence of the illegal logging activities in Sierra Madre merits the proposal of Task Force Sierra Madre for the formation of a Citizens' Independent Investigating Team to intensify the fight against the wanton environmental destruction and the alleged government corruption that is tied with it;

WHEREAS, there is a pressing need not only to stop the illegal logging activities in Sierra Madre but also to name the operators of these activities and the government officials who have allowed such operations either through bribery, extortion, or sheer negligence so that they may be brought to justice;

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 renewed

illegal logging activities in Sierra Madre and the formation of a Citizens' Independent Investigating Team to probe the possible corruption that allowed for such prohibited operations to continue.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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