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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. **1524**

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED INCREASING DETERIORATION OF MOUNT PULAG WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF CONSERVING AND PRESERVING THE SAID NATIONAL PARK**

*Whereas*, Pulag is the second highest mountain in the Philippines, next to Mount Apo in Mindanao;

*Whereas*, Mt. Pulag was declared a national park by virtue of Proclamation No. 75 issued in 1987;

*Whereas*, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) officials visited the area recently to hold a consultation meeting with residents of Bgy. Ballay, held near Lake Tabayo, one of the trails leading to Mt. Pulag's peak;

*Whereas*, during the consultation, DENR maintained that the areas devoted to agriculture just below the mossy forests must not expand anymore; .

*Whereas*, DENR also expressed its plans to establish a buffer zone to delineate the extent of the mossy forests from the areas already planted with vegetables;

*Whereas*, members of the community said that the government must provide alternative means of livelihood to discourage them from cutting more trees to give way to vegetable farms;

*Whereas*, the residents explained that many of them who own farms in the mossy forests have lived there for many years, and therefore would protest if their farms were retrieved in the name of preserving the park;

*Whereas*, Ballay is home to 531 families (2,800 people), most of them farmers: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported increasing deterioration of Mount Pulag with the objective of conserving and preserving the said national park.

Adopted,

  
MANNY VILLAR  
Senator