

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

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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 1554

RECEIVED BY



INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MANNY VILLAR

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATE OF PHILIPPINES' PRIMARY FOREST COVER, LOOK INTO THE MECHANISMS FOR ITS PRESERVATION, ENSURING THAT ADEQUATE ACTIONS ARE TAKEN TO PROMOTE ITS GROWTH

WHEREAS, the present primary forest cover of the Philippines are just remnants of what it was in the turn of the last century, containing trees which have attained great age and a forest cover exhibiting unique ecological features;

WHEREAS, between 1990 and 2005, the Philippines lost a third of its forest cover;

WHEREAS, the current deforestation rate is around two percent per year, representing a 20 percent drop from the rate of the forest cover in the 1990;

WHEREAS, despite the ban on timber harvesting following severe flooding in the late 1980s and early 1990s, illegal logging continues to be responsible for much of the historical forest loss;

WHEREAS, human activities like mining operations, agricultural fires (kaingin), collection of firewood, and rural population expansion have also contributed to deforestation in recent years;

WHEREAS, the continuing disappearance of our primary forests is of great concern because of the high levels of endemic species that are dependent on its preservation, of the 1,196 known species of amphibians, birds, mammals and reptiles in the country, nearly 46 percent are endemic. Among plants, the number of endemic species is around 40 percent;

WHEREAS, with the continued threats to our primary forests it is imperative to act now to ensure that they are preserved for future generations; NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to direct the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources and Climate Change to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the state of Philippines' primary forest cover, look into the mechanisms for its preservation, ensuring that adequate actions are taken to promote its growth.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
Senator