

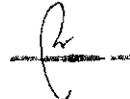
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 145

RECEIVED BY 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MANNY VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE REPORTED PRACTICE OF UPLAND FARMING IN MOUNT MAKILING WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FORMULATING SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE FOREST RESERVE

WHEREAS, Article II Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution 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, Mount Makiling was proclaimed a forest reserve by Act 1989 of the Philippine Commission which covers 4,200 hectares of land;

WHEREAS, in 1950, Mt. Makiling was placed under the administration of the Parks and Wildlife Commission, however, in 1963, by virtue of Republic Act No. 3523, Mt. Makiling was disestablished as a national park and ownership of the same was transferred and conveyed to the University of the Philippines which renamed the forest reserve as the Makiling Botanical Gardens (MBG), a unit of the Makiling Center for Mountain Ecosystems of the said University;

WHEREAS, both endemic and exotic trees of economic and aesthetic value were cultivated in the lower and midlevel elevations of Mt. Makiling;

WHEREAS, farmers started cultivating ginger, corn, pepper and other crops in the upland areas of Mount Makiling. The practice of growing such crops was introduced by the Department of Agriculture in 2006;

WHEREAS, when typhoons Milenyo, Ondoy, Pepeng and Basyang hit the country, several houses at the foot of Mt. Makiling were destroyed and portions of the bridge thereat collapsed as a result of soil erosion and flash floods;

WHEREAS, the practice of growing annual crops has been blamed for the soil erosion and flash floods since they are harvested seasonally and have shallow root systems;

RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Philippines, to urge the Senate Committees on Environment and Natural Resources and Agriculture and Food to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the reported practice of upland farming in Mt. Makiling with the end in view of formulating sustainable strategies for the protection of the forest reserve.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR