

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

10 SEP -1 11 34

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 156

RECEIVED



INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MANNY VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE "ECOSYSTEM APPROACH" OF THE IKALAHAN TRIBE IN NUEVA VIZCAYA WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF INDIGENOUS PRACTICES AND THE WIDESPREAD UTILIZATION OF ITS APPROACH TO PROTECT PHILIPPINE FORESTS AND TO HELP KEEP THE BALANCE IN OUR ECOSYSTEM

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, the Ikalahans are the indigenous people of Caraballo Mountain in Nueva Vizcaya;

WHEREAS, they are known for their indigenous practices which are environmentally sustainable, thus, improving the productivity of the land and enhancing the quality of forest growth;

WHEREAS, among the practices of Ikalahans are: pangomis (intercropping tree crops in swidden to expedite fallow); gen-gen (ancient in-situ composting method); day-og (ancient in-situ composting method on level lands to restore fertility after earthquake); carbon sequestration (a system to measure growth of forests); and Forest Improvement Technology (a systematized cutting method patterned after indigenous processes to expedite forest growth);

WHEREAS, the Ikalahan's indigenous practices strongly expressed its connection with conservation, which the tribe invariably equate land and the resources within it with life itself;

WHEREAS, its policy resulted in reduced illegal activities and transformed the forest reserve into a self-reliant and sustainable area; but more importantly, it helped alleviate the socio-economic conditions of the tribal members.

WHEREAS, due to its best practices, the Ikalahan tribe has earned recognition for the protection and development of forests;

RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Philippines, to urge the Senate Committees on Environment and Natural Resources and Cultural Communities to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the reported "ecosystem approach" of the Ikalahan Tribe in Nueva Vizcaya with the end in view of recommending to the *Department of Environment and Natural Resources* the institutionalization of indigenous practices and the widespread utilization of its approach to protect Philippine Forests and to help keep the balance in our ecosystem.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR