
Introduced by Sen. M.A. Madrigal

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE PENDING MASSACRE OF ESTIMATED THIRTEEN THOUSAND TREES IN CAMP JOHN HAY, BAGUIO CITY TO GIVE WAY TO THE EXPANSION OF THE EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE THEREIN WITH A PURPOSE OF ENACTING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION PARTICULARLY THE DECLARATION OF THE ENTIRE CITY OF BAGUIO AS AN ECO-TOURISM ZONE AND ESTABLISHING THE BOUNDARIES OF ITS STRICT PROTECTION AND BUFFER ZONES

WHEREAS the City of Baguio is still considered as the summer capital of the Philippines;

WHEREAS tourism is the primary industry and source of business in the City of Baguio;

WHEREAS every year, millions of Filipino and foreign tourists visit the City of Baguio for its cool temperature and nice weather;

WHEREAS Camp John Hay located in the City of Baguio with its thick forest cover consisting primarily of pine trees helps keep the cool temperature in Baguio City;

WHEREAS the Bases Conversion and Development Authority entered into a Joint Venture Agreement with Camp John Hay Development Corporation for the development of around 300 hectares of Camp John Hay;

WHEREAS Camp John Hay Development Corporation entered into a lease agreement with the Philippine Export Processing Zone for the establishment of an economic zone inside Camp John Hay;

WHEREAS PEZA plans to develop a 65,253 square meters of Camp John Hay land to host the expansion of aircraft parts manufacturer, Moog Controls Philippines, Inc.;

WHEREAS PEZA and BCDA officials already inquired from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources the requirements for clearing a forest land;

WHEREAS it is feared that up to 13,000 trees will be cut if this development will push through;

WHEREAS questions were raised on the legality of the lease agreement as well as the development of the area considering that the Camp John Hay is still classified as a Forest Land and yet to be reclassified as alienable and disposable;

WHEREAS being a forest land, Camp John Hay is beyond the commerce of man and therefore cannot be leased for development without an act of Congress;

WHEREAS it was reported that Camp John Hay is only one of the three wooded areas which are facing destruction due to high profile developments;

WHEREAS there is a need to prevent indiscriminate cutting of trees and destruction of forests in Baguio City to preserve its main tourist attraction: the fine weather which the trees help maintain;

WHEREAS there is a need to study the immediate passage of a law which will declare the entire City of Baguio as an exclusive eco-tourism zone so that future developments therein will be consistent with the said declaration;

WHEREAS there is also a need to set the boundaries of the remaining forests of Baguio City and declare them as strict protection zones where no tree cutting shall be allowed and its peripheral areas as buffer zones where activities shall be regulated;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and the Committee on Tourism to investigate, in aid of legislation, the pending massacre of estimated thirteen thousand trees in Camp John Hay, Baguio City to give way to the expansion of the export processing zone therein with a purpose of enacting remedial legislation particularly the declaration of the entire City of Baguio as an eco-tourism zone and establishing the boundaries of its strict protection and buffer zones.

Adopted,


M. A. MADRIGAL