

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

SENATE
P.S.R. No. **293**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RECEIVED BY: 

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED DESECRATION OF BURIAL
SITES IN SAGADA

WHEREAS, Article 14, Section 16 of the Constitution states that "All the country's artistic and historic wealth constitutes the cultural treasure of the nation and shall be under the protection of the State which may regulate its disposition";

WHEREAS, according some news reports, burial caves in Sagada need more watchdogs to prevent desecration;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the Lumiang Cave is a popular tourist destination known for its numerous piled hanging coffins made from old pinewood, and is allegedly flocked by 10,000 foreign and local tourists yearly;

WHEREAS, the Sagada Tourist Environment Association (STEA) President Edward Dalay allegedly said that some tourists tend to become irresponsible, leading to the desecration of Sagada's traditional caves;

WHEREAS, because of this, STEA had to become more vigilant; in effect, tourists are allegedly no longer allowed to come near or touch the coffins;

WHEREAS, it was reported that tourists are now required to register and they must be accompanied by tourism officers so they can be easily traced;

WHEREAS, STEA will allegedly increase their manpower of 10 tourist guides;

WHEREAS, the rightful preservation of the hanging coffins in Lumiang Cave should be implemented;

WHEREAS, Congress should take measures and implement stricter guidelines or laws that will see to the preservation of historical sites;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the government attends to the preservation of historical sites not only because these generate revenue from tourism, but especially because these sites are testimonials of and provide insights into Philippine culture and heritage;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged desecration of burial sites in Sagada.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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