

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

S E N A T E  
Senate Resolution No. 029 01

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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO LOOK INTO THE CONTINUED CUTTING DOWN AND UPROOTING OF MATURE TREES FOR PUBLIC WORK PROJECTS WITHOUT FULL CONSIDERATION OF ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

**WHEREAS**, Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution provides 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**, Presidential Decree No. 1586 of 1978, also known as the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System, directs the establishment of an Environmental Impact Statement System by all agencies and instrumentalities of the national government, including government-owned and controlled corporations, as well as private corporations, firms and entities, for every proposed project and undertaking which will significantly affect the environment;

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order No. 2011-23 which declares a moratorium on the cutting and harvesting of timber in the natural and residual forests of the country, prohibits the DENR from issuing/renewing tree cutting permits in all residual and natural forests nationwide, except for clearing of right of way by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) among others;

**WHEREAS**, in a Memorandum dated 16 July 2012 issued by the Office of the Executive Secretary, the request for approval of tree cutting/earth-balling permits made by the Department of Energy, DPWH, the Province of Isabela and City of Baguio concerning the implementation of their public works projects was granted;

**WHEREAS**, with the approval of the said permits, the DPWH is now authorized to cut down an estimated 486 mature trees – some more than 50 years of age, in the Pampanga portion of the Manila North Road, particularly in the cities of Angeles and Mabalacat as part of the agency's road expansion project;

**WHEREAS**, other mature trees found in nearby provinces are likely to suffer the same fate as those found in Pampanga and Tarlac;

**WHEREAS**, similar incidences have been reported in other areas wherein the DPWH, despite the absence of a tree cutting permit from the DENR, resorted to the uprooting of full-grown trees for its road expansion works;

**WHEREAS**, implementors of the said projects should be more circumspect in recommending the earth-balling of these trees and appreciate the environmental services of these trees to their host communities;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to ensure that the National Greening Program is properly coordinated with the implementation of the infrastructure projects of the national government;

**WHEREAS**, this necessitates the conduct of a comprehensive inventory and accurate reporting of mature trees that will be affected by road expansion works, power transmission lines construction, and other vital infrastructure projects;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and the Committee on Climate change to look into the continued cutting down and uprooting of mature trees for public work projects without full consideration of its environmental impact.

*Adopted,*

  
**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator