

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



'18 MAY 10 P2:19

SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 730

RECEIVED
[Signature]

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RESOLUTION
URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONWIDE LOG BAN, WITH THE END GOALS OF ASSESSING THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS, MEASURES AND POLICIES IN RELATION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SAID BAN, AND TO INTRODUCE NECESSARY LEGISLATION TO BETTER PROTECT THE COUNTRY'S FOREST AND TIMBER LANDS

WHEREAS, it is the State's policy to "protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature"¹;

WHEREAS, according to the "2016 Philippine Forestry Statistics" by the Forest Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Philippines has 15,805,325 hectares total of forestland with 3,270,146 hectares as established forest reserves;

WHEREAS, as of 2010, the Philippines' forest cover is comprised of 4.54% mangrove forest, 28.28% closed forest and 67.18% open forest;

WHEREAS, the top 10 provinces in terms of forest cover area are Palawan, Isabela, Cagayan, Agusan Del Sur, Surigao Del Sur, Quezon, Apayao, Aurora, Bukidnon and Nueva Vizcaya;

WHEREAS, in February 2011, former President Benigno Aquino signed Executive Order No. 23 decreeing a total log ban in the country to address forest denudation;

¹ Section 16, Article 2 of the 1987 Constitution.

WHEREAS, President Rogrigo Duterte previously formed a tripartite convergence committee composed of the DENR, Department of Agriculture (DA) and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) to stringently implement the nationwide log ban;

WHEREAS, it has been reported last 7 May 2018 that residents of La Paz, Agusan Del Sur had spotted 100 logs floating along Adgaon River in Barangay Poblacion in La Paz;

WHEREAS, given the very vast and remote forest lands and/or areas that are very much vulnerable to illegal logging all throughout the country, there is a need to look closely into the implementation of total log ban in the country;

WHEREAS, there is a need to look into the government's efforts, guidelines and measures in relation to the implementation of the nationwide log ban;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to urge the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the implementation of the nationwide log ban, with the end goals of assessing the government's efforts, measures and policies in relation to the implementation of said ban, and to introduce necessary legislation to better protect the country's forest and timber lands;

Adopted.


GRACE POE
