

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

11 NOV 22 P5:18

SENATE  
P.S. Resolution No. 650

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Introduced by Senators Francis N. Pangilinan, Aquilino Pimentel III, Loren B. Legarda, Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., Teofisto L. Guingona III, Pia S. Cayetano, Antonio F. Trillanes IV, Ralph G. Recto, Panfilo M. Lacson, Manuel M. Lapid, Manny B. Villar Jr., Gregorio B. Honasan II

***RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO  
URGE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY TO  
SAVE THE RICE TERRACES OF THE PHILIPPINE CORDILLERAS  
FROM DEGRADATION***

WHEREAS, the Rice Terraces of the Philippines, carved into the mountains by the Ifugao people 2000 years ago, are considered national cultural treasures that present a panorama of the rich history and culture of the indigenous peoples of the cordilleras;

WHEREAS, the Rice Terraces of the Philippines, renowned for their remarkably beautiful and scenic landscape, reflect the ingenuity and craftsmanship of the Ifugao people. The rice terraces were inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1995 in recognition of the living cultural heritage of the indigenous people, who during ancient times used primitive tools and bare hands to laboriously sculpt the slopes of the mountains into terraced fields to plant rice;

WHEREAS, considered a wonder of the world, the Rice Terraces of the Philippines are distinct from other rice terraces in the world. These massive structures are a masterpiece of remarkable traditional engineering and irrigation systems, dating back to 2000 years ago. Built approximately 1500 meters above sea level and cover 10,360 square kilometres of the mountainside with steep slopes of 70 degrees maximum, the rice terraces are irrigated by an ancient irrigation system where rainforests at the top of the mountain keep the terraces wet;

WHEREAS, the rice terraces resembling huge steps in the mountain slopes, have stood the test of time, as farmers continue to adapt to indigenous rice terracing technologies. They are planted to organic rice varieties and maintained in the traditional manner that reflects the ancient rituals, traditions and cultural practices of the indigenous people. The traditional management of the rice terraces has kept the balance and harmony in the interaction of man and nature;

WHEREAS, the Ifugao people have been protecting and preserving the rice terraces, factors such as environmental and social interventions have made the rice terraces prone to degradation. The recent typhoons Pedring and Quiel have caused damage to the rice terraces after a total of 102,663 cubic meters of the area has been destroyed, affecting 13 barangays and 2000 farmers, and estimating over P122.65 million damage caused to agriculture;

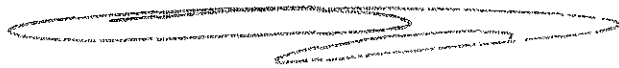
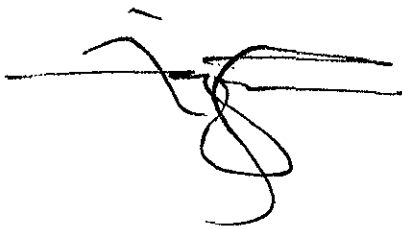
WHEREAS, the government should encourage Filipinos, particularly the youth, to participate in efforts to save the rice terraces and to promote appreciation of the culture of the indigenous people;

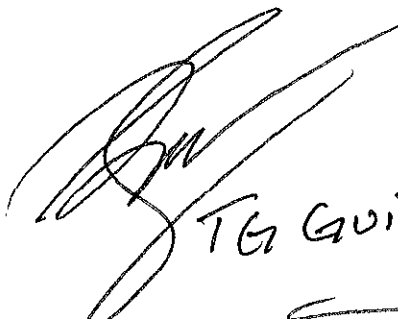
WHEREAS, the rice terraces symbolize the rich culture and traditions of the Filipino people. They are national cultural treasures that offer local and international tourists a sight to behold. Considering the vulnerability of the rice terraces to damage caused by environmental factors, the government should support efforts to preserve the rice terraces and save them from further degradation. Government agencies should work together to rebuild the damaged rice terrace walls caused by the typhoons;


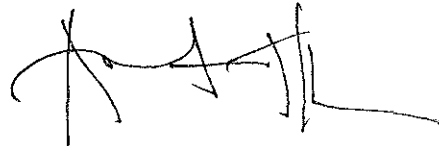
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Senate of the Philippines to urge government agencies to work collaboratively to save the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras from degradation.

**ADOPTED.**

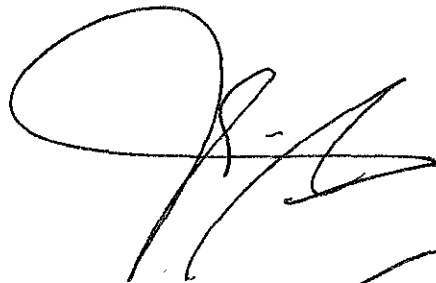
A. Pimentel

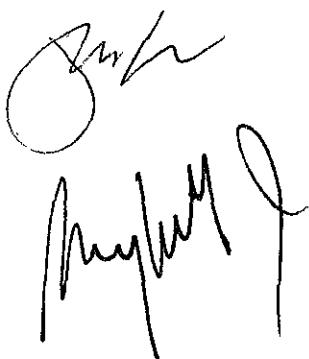


  
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7 F. R. MARCOS  


  
Ric J. Cayat



  
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