

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

14 JUL 14 P3:28

SENATE
P. S. Res. No. 766

RECEIVED BY.

Introduced by Senator LOREN LEGARDA

RESOLUTION

COMMENDING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PANDAN IN ANTIQUE FOR THEIR ACTIVE ROLE IN THE CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE BUGANG RIVER AS THE CLEANEST INLAND BODY OF WATER IN THE PHILIPPINES, THUS SERVING AS A MODEL IN THE SUCCESSFUL ADOPTION OF A COMMUNITY-BASED ECO-TOURISM APPROACH IN SAFEGUARDING THE COUNTRY'S WATER RESOURCES

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, Section 20 of Republic Act No. 9275 also known as the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 affirms the role of local government units in the management and improvement of water quality within their territorial jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, based on the 2007 *State of Water Resources in the Philippines* report published by the international organization Greenpeace, only 39% of the 525 water bodies classified by the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources can be potential sources of drinking water, while as much as 58% of the groundwater in the country are infected by coliform and in need of water treatment;

WHEREAS, with economic losses due to water pollution amounting to PhP 67 billion every year, the Water Environment Partnership in Asia attributes the poor state of water resources in the country to the following factors: weak enforcement of water-related laws, poor database for monitoring water quality and weak coordination among difference agencies and local government units in the management of water bodies within their jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, despite the perceived poor state of inland waters in the country, local government units such as the Municipality of Pandan in the province of Antique have shown the way in balancing public and private interests as displayed in the sustainable management of the island's main water source which is the Bugang River;

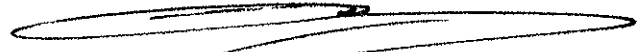
WHEREAS, through the establishment of the Bugang Community-Based Eco-Tourism Organization (BCBTO), the local government and the residents of Pandan have successfully maintained the status of the four kilometer Bugang River as one of the cleanest inland bodies of water in the country;

WHEREAS, the Bugang River is considered as a Hall of Fame awardee in the government's Cleanest Inland Body of Water contest and in the 2006 Green Environment Apple Awards for best practices in environmental management through the enforcement of regulations such as the prohibition of the construction of pig pens along its river system and swimming activity in its headspring;

WHEREAS, the local government of Pandan has shown that a community-based eco-tourism approach can be adopted by other municipalities and cities to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to commend the local government and community of Pandan in Antique for their active role in the conservation and preservation of the Bugang River as the cleanest inland body of water in the Philippines, thus serving as a model in the successful adoption of a community-based eco-tourism approach in safeguarding the country's water resources

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA

Senator