



**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN**



**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR** : **The Undersecretary**  
Field Operations - Luzon, Visayas and Environment

**The Directors**  
Legal Affairs Service  
Policy and Planning Service  
Climate Change Service

**The Bureau Directors**  
Environmental Management Bureau  
Land Management Bureau  
Forest Management Bureau  
Biodiversity Management Bureau

**The Officer-In-Charge**  
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

**The Regional Executive Director**  
Region IV-A

**The Regional Directors**  
Mines and Geosciences Bureau  
Environmental Management Bureau

**FROM** : **The Undersecretary**  
Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs

**SUBJECT** : **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RESOLUTION IN THE CONDUCT OF AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED DRILLING OPERATIONS WITHIN THE LIMESTONE FORMATIONS OF THE MASUNGI GEORESERVE CONSERVATION AREA IN TANAY AND BARAS, RIZAL FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM**

**DATE** : **MAR 20 2024**

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In reference to the email received by our Office, the Senate Committee on Tourism joint with the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovations and Futures

Thinking, in preparation for a public hearing, is requesting the Department's comments on the Proposed Senate Resolution No. 932 entitled:

**"RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED DRILLING OPERATIONS WITHIN THE LIMESTONE FORMATIONS OF THE MASUNGI GEORESERVE CONSERVATION AREA IN TANAY AND BARAS, RIZAL WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CONSERVING AND PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT FROM POTENTIAL RISK"** (Sen. Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay).

In this regard, may we request **comments/recommendations on the abovementioned Senate Resolution**, in preparation for the public hearing, as requested by the Committee. Kindly send them **on or before 25 March 2024, at 5 PM** via email at [denrlllo@denr.gov.ph](mailto:denrlllo@denr.gov.ph).

Attached herewith are the Letter-Request and a copy of the Senate Resolution, for reference.

  
IGNATIUS LOYOLA A. RODRIGUEZ



Republic of the Philippines  
Senate

**COMMITTEE ON TOURISM**  
Joint with the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation and  
Futures Thinking

March 18, 2024

**HON. MA. ANTONIA YULO - LOYZAGA**  
Secretary  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)  
[osec@denr.gov.ph](mailto:osec@denr.gov.ph)  
[denrlegislative@yahoo.com](mailto:denrlegislative@yahoo.com)  
[denrlo@denr.gov.ph](mailto:denrlo@denr.gov.ph)

Dear Sec. Yulo - Loyzaga,

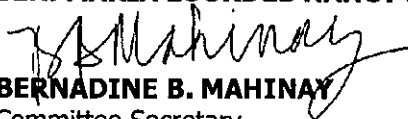
The Committee on Tourism chaired by Sen. Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay, is preparing to conduct a public hearing to deliberate on **Proposed Senate Resolution No. 932** entitled "**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED DRILLING OPERATIONS WITHIN THE LIMESTONE FORMATIONS OF THE MASUNGI GEORESERVE CONSERVATION AREA IN TANAY AND BARAS, RIZAL WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CONSERVING AND PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT FROM POTENTIAL RISK**" (Sen. Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay).

In this regard, the Committee would initially like to request for your position paper and copies of pertinent documents, if any, before the hearing proper. You may send it to this email address: [senate.tourism@gmail.com](mailto:senate.tourism@gmail.com). We will let you know of the date, time and venue of the public hearing, once finalized. We have also attached a copy of the said resolution for your reference.

You may contact the undersigned Committee Secretary at Viber 09178669287 or our support staff, Mr. Japit Tijap at 09194873335 for any assistance.

Thank you very much.

**For the Chairperson:**  
**SEN. MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**

  
**BERNADINE B. MAHINAY**  
Committee Secretary

24 FEB 19 P1:12

**SENATE**  
**P.S. Res. No. 932**

RECEIVED

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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED DRILLING OPERATIONS WITHIN THE LIMESTONE FORMATIONS OF THE MASUNGI GEORESERVE CONSERVATION AREA IN TANAY AND BARAS, RIZAL WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CONSERVING AND PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT FROM POTENTIAL RISK**

1           **WHEREAS**, the Masungi Karst Conservation Area (MKCA) is a natural heritage  
2 covered and protected by Presidential Proclamation No. 1636 (Pres. Proc. 1636), DENR  
3 Administrative Order No. 1993-33 (DAO 1993-33) and a local ordinance by the Tanay  
4 LGU declaring the MKCA a conservation area;

5  
6           **WHEREAS**, in November 2023, four drilling rigs on the Masungi Karst were  
7 documented via drone capture. It was revealed that the company, Rizal Wind Energy  
8 Corporation (RWEC), owned by Singapore-based Vena Energy, plans to build around  
9 12 wind turbines inside the MKCA;

10  
11           **WHEREAS**, the Masungi Georeserve is a conservation area and rustic rock  
12 garden tucked in the rainforests of Rizal. Masungi's name is derived from the word  
13 "masungki" which translates to "spiked" – an apt description for the sprawling  
14 limestone landscape found within. In the sanctuary, guests will be able to commune  
15 with nature, and reenergize themselves while doing so. Wander through the pathways  
16 and encounter wildlife and plant species<sup>1</sup>;

17  
18           **WHEREAS**, Masungi Georeserve Foundation cofounder and conservationist  
19 Billie Dumaliang told the Business Mirror that they occasionally use drones to inspect  
20 hard-to-reach areas, monitor entrances, tree-cutting activities and instances of fires  
21 within the Georeserve<sup>2</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> About Masungi. <https://www.masungigeoreserve.com/>

<sup>2</sup> New threat to Masungi? Available at <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/02/11/new-threat-to-masungi/>

1           **WHEREAS**, Masungi Georeserve management sought clarification by engaging  
2 in a dialogue with the representatives from both companies about the project's nature  
3 and intentions, and, Dumaliang said, "that's when we found out about the plan." The  
4 plan "was to build around 12 wind turbines within the MKCA"<sup>3</sup>;

5           **WHEREAS**, Angela Tan, head of corporate communication at Vena Energy  
6 Group, clarified to the Business Mirror via email that "we are only conducting a study  
7 on the potential of wind energy in Tanay and Baras, Rizal"<sup>4</sup>;

8  
9           **WHEREAS**, Dumaliang pointed out the DAO 1993-33, asserting "even studies  
10 for a wind farm should not have commenced in the first place."<sup>5</sup>;

11  
12           **WHEREAS**, RWECC reportedly received Protected Area Management Board  
13 approval to explore and study the area for wind farm development as it is in a "multi-  
14 use zone" within the Pres. Proc. 1616 National Park, Game Preserve and Wildlife  
15 Sanctuary;

16  
17           **WHEREAS**, the potential risks of placing such projects in areas rich in  
18 biodiversity and heritage could lead to unintended problems;

19  
20           **WHEREAS**, wind turbines are known to be fatal for birds and bats, especially  
21 raptors. We have 99 species of birds including the endangered Philippine Hawk Eagle.  
22 We have over 30 species of bats including the first record of Flying Foxes in Rizal;

23  
24           **WHEREAS**, more than 500 hectares of the MKCA may be affected by the  
25 project since it involves creating vast road networks and clearing forests and  
26 vegetation while damaging the visual integrity of the natural landscape;

27  
28           **WHEREAS**, Karst ecosystems are known to be arks of biodiversity and are very  
29 fragile due to underground systems, caves, sinkholes. According to the Natural History  
30 Museum technical report on Masungi Georeserve, any major disturbance on the  
31 landscape may trigger sinkhole collapse;

32  
33           **WHEREAS**, the Masungi Georeserve has transformed from an unproductive  
34 and desolate landscape, plagued by the incessant hum of chainsaws and  
35 encroachment from land speculators, into a flourishing secondary forest over the past  
36 two decades;

37  
38           **WHEREAS**, the Masungi Georeserve Project is considered one of the last green  
39 frontiers near Metro Manila and a haven for unique biodiversity. The planned wind  
40 farm will put the more than 25 years of restoration efforts to waste;

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

1           **RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Senate of the Philippines,  
2 to direct the proper senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on  
3 the reported drilling operations within the limestone formations of the Masungi  
4 Georeserve Conservation Area in Tanay and Baras, Rizal with the end in view of  
5 conserving and protecting our environment from potential risks.

Adopted,

  
**MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**