



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



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Undersecretaries**
Field Operations - Luzon, Visayas, and Environment
Field Operations-Mindanao and Environment
Policy, Planning, and International Affairs
Legal and Administration

The Directors
Legal Affairs Service
Policy and Planning Service

The Bureau Directors
Environmental Management Bureau
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Land Management Bureau
Ecosystem Research Development Bureau

The Regional Executive Directors
Region IV-A, VII, XI, XII, CARAGA

The Regional Directors
Environmental Management Bureau Regional Office
Region IV-A, VII, XI, XII, CARAGA

The OIC PENRO
Bohol, Region VII

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

SUBJECT : **INVITATION TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE PUBLIC
HEARING ON EXPLOITATION ON CHOCOLATE HILLS NATURAL
MONUMENT, UPPER MARIKINA RIVER BASIN PROTECTED
LANDSCAPE, SIARGAO ISLAND PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AND
SEASCAPE, AND MOUNT APO NATURAL PARK**

DATE : **22 MAR 2024**

The Senate Committee on Environment Natural Resources and Climate Change joint with the Committee on Local Government shall conduct a **public hearing on Wednesday, 03 April 2024, 10:00 AM at Senator Pecson Room, 2nd Floor, Senate of the Philippines, Pasay City.**

The public hearing shall deliberate on the following legislative measures:

1. P.S. Res. No. 967 - Resolution Directing the Proper Senate Committees to Conduct an Inquiry, In Aid of Legislation, on the Reported Construction of Structures Within the Vicinity of the Chocolate Hills, with the End in View of Preserving Bohol's Protected Area and Major Tourist Attraction, introduced by Sen. Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay;
2. P.S. Res. No. 970 - Resolution Directing the Appropriate Committee/s of the Senate, to Conduct an Inquiry into Reports on the Destruction of Chocolate Hills and Defacement by Tourist Resorts and Other Projects, introduced by Sen. Joel Villanueva;
3. P.S. Res. No. 973 - Resolution Urging the Appropriate Senate Committee to Conduct an Inquiry in Aid of Legislation into the Construction of Resorts Within the Chocolate Hills Natural Monument (CHNM) With the End View of Reviewing Existing Policies, Procedures, and Standards to Ensure the Conservation and Protection of Our Protected Areas, introduced by Sen. Loren Legarda; and
4. P.S. Res. No. 976 - Resolution Directing the Appropriate Senate Committee to Conduct an Inquiry, In Aid of Legislation, on The Management Practices, the Presence of Tenurial Agreements, and the Protection Mechanisms or the Lack Thereof, Accorded to the Country's Protected Areas, In Light of Distressing Reports of Exploitation or Defacement of Certain Protected Areas, Such as the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape in Rizal, the Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape in Surigao Del Norte, the Chocolate Hills Natural Monument in the Province of Bohol, the Mount Apo Natural Park in the Provinces of North Cotabato and Davao Del Sur, and Davao City Among Others, introduced by Sen. Cynthia A. Villar.

In this regard, we respectfully **invite and require your presence at the public hearing**. Further, we request that the Legislative Liaison Office (LLO) be furnished with all **reports, positions, and comments related to the above-mentioned resolutions on or before 27 March 2024, 5 PM** for their proper transmission to the Committee.

Kindly send the documents to the LLO via email at denrlllo@denr.gov.ph. Attached herewith is the Agenda for the public hearing. The Senate Resolutions may be accessed through this link: <https://tinyurl.com/SCENRCCRolutions>.

For information and compliance.


IGNATIUS LOYOLA A. RODRIGUEZ



Republic of the Philippines
SENATE

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CLIMATE CHANGE**
joint with the
Committee on Local Government

PUBLIC HEARING

April 3, 2024 (Wednesday)
10:00 A.M., Sen. Pecson Room

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Acknowledgment of Senators Present
- III. Acknowledgment of Guests/Resource Persons
- IV. Opening Statements of **SEN. CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**, Chairperson of the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, and other Senator/s present
- V. Deliberations/Discussions on the following legislative measures:
 - 1) P.S. Res. No. 967 – Resolution Directing the Proper Senate Committees to Conduct an Inquiry, In Aid of Legislation, on the Reported Construction of Structures Within the Vicinity of the Chocolate Hills, with the End in View of Preserving Bohol's Protected Area and Major Tourist Attraction, *introduced by Sen. Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay*, and

- 2) P.S. Res. No. 970 – Resolution Directing the Appropriate Committee/s of the Senate, to Conduct an Inquiry into Reports on the Destruction of Chocolate Hills and Defacement by Tourist Resorts and Other Projects, *introduced by Sen. Joel Villanueva*; and
- 3) P.S. Res. No. 973 - Resolution Urging the Appropriate Senate Committee to Conduct an Inquiry in Aid of Legislation into the Construction of Resorts Within the Chocolate Hills Natural Monument (CHNM) With the End View of Reviewing Existing Policies, Procedures, and Standards to Ensure the Conservation and Protection of Our Protected Areas, *introduced by Sen. Loren Legarda*
- 4) P.S. Res. No. 976 - Resolution Directing the Appropriate Senate Committee to Conduct an Inquiry, In Aid of Legislation, on The Management Practices, the Presence of Tenurial Agreements, and the Protection Mechanisms or the Lack Thereof, Accorded to the Country's Protected Areas, In Light of Distressing Reports of Exploitation or Defacement of Certain Protected Areas, Such as the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape in Rizal, the Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape in Surigao Del Norte, the Chocolate Hills Natural Monument in the Province of Bohol, the Mount Apo Natural Park in the Provinces of North Cotabato and Davao Del Sur, and Davao City Among Others, *introduced by Sen. Cymthia A. Villar*.