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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

588

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. _____



Introduced by

**BAYAN MUNA Representatives EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, and FERDINAND R. GAITE,
ACT TEACHERS Party-List Representative FRANCE L. CASTRO,
GABRIELA Women's Party Representative ARLENE D. BROSAS
and KABATAAN Party-List Representative SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**

RESOLUTION

**URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THROUGH THE COMMITTEE
ON INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE
DISPLACEMENT OF AETA COMMUNITIES IN CAPAS, TARLAC BY THE BASES
CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO MAKE WAY FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CLARK CITY**

WHEREAS, the New Clark City is an urban development project covering 9,450 hectares of land in the municipalities of Capas and Bamban in Tarlac, and the Mabalacat Municipality in Pampanga. The project encroaches on the ancestral lands of the Aeta tribes. Around 20,000 indigenous people and 15,000 peasants will be harshly affected by the implementation of the project. The P607 billion project, touted as the first "green city" in the country, is owned, operated, and managed by the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA);

WHEREAS, On November 29, 2019, members of the Aeta community residing in Barangay Aranguren, Capas, Tarlac were given eviction letters by the BCDA notifying them that they had seven (7) days to leave their ancestral lands to make way for the construction of the New Clark City. According to the BCDA, non-response to the letter after seven days would mean forfeiting claim to any financial aid, and that the BCDA would be forced to take legal measures and would not be held liable for any damage to the properties of the Aeta in the course of their clearing operations in the said ancestral land;

WHEREAS, in a statement dated December 5, 2019 the BCDA claimed that no Aeta community will be displaced by the New Clark City project as there are no Ancestral Domains or Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title registered with the NCIP in the said area. However, contrary to the BCDA's claim, there are 500 Aeta families that will be displaced by the construction of the New Clark City according to Casamira Maniego, head of the Asosasyon ng Katutubong Mahawang in Capas. Furthermore, these Aeta communities have been residing in their ancestral land in Tarlac for centuries, long before the existence of the Indigenous People's Rights Act of 1997 which requires the registry of ancestral domains, and long before the existence of Certificates of Ancestral Domain Title;

WHEREAS, the existence, ownership, and use of ancestral lands by the Aeta for centuries are well-documented in the Philippine National Archives as far back as 1856. The occupation of the

1 Aetas in the Capas area is documented in the 1856 document “Erecciones de Pueblos-Pampanga”¹;
2 Maps used in the 1900’s by American colonizers document the estimate of Aeta ancestral land in
3 central Luzon and all over the country²;

4 **WHEREAS**, the history of how the ancestral lands in Capas, Tarlac came to be under the
5 authority of the BCDA reveals the systemic disenfranchisement of the Aeta of their right to
6 ancestral land and domain. On March 16, 1947, the United States and Republic of the Philippines
7 signed the Military Bases Agreement which gave to the US Army gargantuan tracts of lands for
8 the establishment of military bases. This included the ancestral lands of the Aeta in Capas, Tarlac.
9 Even then, peasants and indigenous people asserted their rights and continued to till and live off
10 of the land. On September 16, 1991, the Philippine Senate rejected the proposed US-RP Treaty of
11 Friendship, Cooperation and Security which was bound to extend the military bases for 10 more
12 years. On March 13 1992, Republic Act 7227 otherwise known as the Bases Conversion and
13 Development Act of 1992 was signed into law by Corazon Aquino creating the Bases Conversion
14 Development Authority. By December 21, 1992 the Military Bases Agreement tenure lapsed.
15 However, the base land was not returned to the peasants and the indigenous people, but was taken
16 over by the BCDA instead;

17 **WHEREAS**, the land being claimed by the BCDA are not idle but are actually productive
18 agricultural lands which are being flattened to make way for the construction of Phase 1 of the
19 NCC in Barangay Arungaren. In 2017, local peasants report the buyout of land in their community,
20 with government offices convincing them to sell their lands. There were reports by peasants and
21 indigenous people who were forced to relocate without any other option. These people were
22 offered a meager compensation between P270,000 to P300,000 for their land or the crops planted
23 on it;

24 **WHEREAS**, the eviction of the Aeta from their ancestral lands raises questions on the New Clark
25 City and who ultimately benefits from the project. In September 2018, the BCDA announced that
26 it would be allotting 500 hectares of land within the New Clark City for an industrial park for
27 Chinese investments in light and medium industries such as car factories, robotics-assembly plants
28 and semiconductor facilities, laboratory and training facilities.³ The P105.2 Billion deal, which is
29 one of the largest projects under the Build, Build, Build program, will be funded by the China
30 Gezhouba Group;⁴

31 **WHEREAS**, the eviction of the Aeta from their own ancestral land, in which they have been
32 living for centuries, is a grave violation of indigenous peoples’ inherent right to ancestral land and
33 domain. It is the duty of Congress to ensure that the rights of the people – especially that of
34 indigenous people and other marginalized groups – are protected and ensured.

35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the
36 House of Representatives, through the Committee on Indigenous Cultural Communities and
37 Indigenous People, conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the displacement of Aeta
38 Communities in Capas, Tarlac by the Bases Conversion Development Authority for the
39 construction of the New Clark City project.

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¹ Erecciones de Pueblos – Pampanga, leg. 55. No 77. Philippine National Archives. April 1, 1856.

² Negritos of Zambales. Reed, W.A. Manila, Bureau of Public Printing. 1904.

³ https://business.inquirer.net/256556/ph-offering-500-hectares-new-clark-city-chinese-firms?fbclid=IwAR11xFIY1mZwyIVdHRwhtbhzZlr4XE9ceWcVKYWN4N2vznmI014_TqIZiPg#ixzz67IomneeA

⁴ https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/11/19/1869939/chinese-company-ink-p105-billion-deal-new-clark-city?fbclid=IwAR2GXw0GTkZKevVXLAzfhJx-ZOwIBn_MKOfjNF0bkCNuOVRRI9XkckFXu1eU

1 *Approved,*

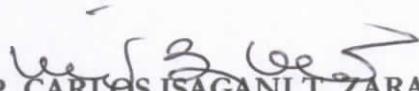
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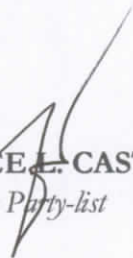
REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist



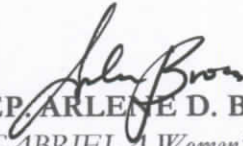
REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Party-list



REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Party-list



REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-list



REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIELA Women's Party



REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
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