

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1192

Submitted by the Committee on Natural Resources on 07 JUN 2011
Re: House Bill No. 4815
Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4415
Sponsors: Representatives Francisco T. Matugas and Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Natural Resources to which was referred House Bill No. 4415, introduced by Representative Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona, entitled:

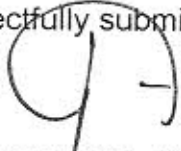
**“AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF ROMBLON A MINING
FREE ZONE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR
VIOLATIONS THEREOF”**

has considered the same and recommends that the herein attached House Bill No. 4815, entitled:

**“AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF ROMBLON A MINING
FREE ZONE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR
VIOLATIONS THEREOF”**

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 4415, with Representatives Madrona, Matugas, Mellana, Jalosjos (C.), Pichay, Unabia, Sr., Durano VI, Rodriguez, Jr. (I.), Marañon III, Avance-Fuentes, Ocampos, Roman, Acharon, Jr., Arnaiz, Ferrer, Ong, Panotes, Ilagan, San Luis, Mendoza (J.), Padilla, Gullas Paras, Vergara, Batocabe, Plaza, Angara and Bonoan-David, as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,


FRANCISCO T. MATUGAS
Committee Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4815
(in substitution of HB No. 4415)

Introduced by Representatives Madrona, Matugas, Mellana, Jalosjos (C.), Pichay, Unabia, Sr., Durano VI, Rodriguez, Jr. (I.), Marañon III, Avance-Fuentes, Ocampos, Roman, Acharon, Jr., Amaiz, Ferrer, Ong, Panotes, Ilagan, San Luis, Mendoza (J.), Padilla, Gullas Paras, Vergara, Batocabe, Plaza, Angara and Bonoan-David

AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF ROMBLON A MINING FREE ZONE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

- 1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.-** The Province of Romblon is
2 hereby declared a mining free zone and all mining operations in the Province
3 of Romblon are hereby prohibited.
- 4 **SEC. 2. Coverage.-** As used in this Act, mining shall refer to the
5 extraction of valuable minerals or other geological materials, excluding gravel,
6 sand and marble. This shall include large-scale and small-scale mining
7 activities involving exploration, feasibility, development, utilization and
8 processing.
- 9 **SEC. 3. Penal Provision.-** It shall be unlawful for any person to mine
10 or continue to mine or to engage in any mining operation in the Province of
11 Romblon.
- 12 Any person found guilty violating the provisions of this Act shall be
13 penalized with imprisonment of at least six (6) years but not more than twelve
14 (12) years and a fine of at least One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00)
15 but not more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00).

1 If the offender is a corporation, firm, partnership or association, the
2 penalty shall be imposed upon the officer or officers of the corporation, firm,
3 partnership or association responsible for the violation thereof.

4 If the offender is an alien, after service of sentence and payment of
5 fine, he/she will be deported immediately without further proceedings.

6 **SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.***-Within three (3)
7 months following the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of
8 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall promulgate the necessary
9 rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

10 **SEC. 5. *Transitory Provision.***- Upon the approval of this Act, the
11 Provincial Government of Romblon, in coordination with the DENR, shall
12 review the contracts and agreements entered into by all existing mining
13 operations and determine those to be terminated and those to be allowed to
14 continue until such period that their contracts or agreements may allow.

15 **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.***- All laws, decrees, orders, rules and
16 regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
17 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

18 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity.***- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
19 following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

20 **Approved,**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 4415

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to declare the Province of Romblon as a mining free zone.

The Province of Romblon, situated at the Heart of the Philippines, is composed of three main big islands and several islets with vast agricultural lands rich in natural resources, as such, the need to be protected and preserved.

In Tablas Island, the Balogo Watershed in the Municipalities of Calatrava, San Andres and San Agustin has been proclaimed as an Important Bird Area (IBA) and Conservation Priority Area (CPA) with an area of 10,495 hectares, in which 2,670 hectares has been declared Watershed Forest Reserve by virtue of Presidential Proclamation 2186. Further, in the final report of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in 2004, Tablas Island is considered a conservation priority area for amphibians, reptiles, arthropods and Tablas Strait as extremely high priority marine conservation area.

In Sibuyan Island is the magnificent Mt. Guiting-Guiting, declared as Natural Park by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 746. Reports have it that it is where the world's densest forest flourishes. Primary forests cover 120 sq. km., which is 26% of the land area. There are 131 species of birds that share the skies with ten species of fruit bat; the plethora of land-dwelling mammals, reptiles, and rodents include at least five species of mammals that are endemic.

Romblon Island has been considered as Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) with endangered species roaming on the island. The Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau - Pawikan Conservation Project (PAWB-PCP) confirmed Sitio Agbaliga in Agpanabat, Romblon as a nesting site of the critically endangered hawksbill turtle.

The Province of Romblon is also envisioned to be one of the primary eco-tourism destinations, not only in the MIMAROPA Region, but also in the whole country. With this objective, we are ensured of the protection and conservation of the environment, and the improvement of the welfare of the local people.

According to the Department of Agriculture – Region IV-B data, since 2008, the whole province of Romblon has been stricken by flooding, landslides, storm surges and typhoons which devastated crops and livestock amounting to Php 110 Million. More so, the combined climate and weather related risks vulnerability of Romblon is relatively high. The geohazard maps of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau show that more than 90% of the number of barangays in Tablas Island and almost 100% of Sibuyan Island barangays are highly susceptible to flood. Additionally, approximately 50% of the mountains and hills in Tablas Island and nearly 85% of Sibuyan Island are highly susceptible to landslides.

With the existence of one (1) approved Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) permit for exploration in Sibuyan Island and several MPSA active applications and Exploration Permit (EP) active applications covering other municipalities in the province, as the records of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau would show, the danger of mining residue in the long run causes apprehension to the residents of the affected communities. Consider the fact that an exploration permit shall grant to the permittee, his heirs or successors-in-interest, the right to enter, occupy and explore the area. Exploration includes the searching or prospecting for mineral resources by geological, geochemical or geophysical surveys, remote sensing, test fitting, trenching, drilling, shaft sinking, tunneling or any other means for the purpose of determining the existence, quantity and quality thereof and the feasibility of mining them for profit. The result of which would be the destruction of the mountains, thereby destroying the environment and eventually cause health hazards to the people.

Evidenced by the negative environmental impacts of past mining activities which caused local and downstream populations to worry that new mining activities will adversely affect their lives and property and destroy the environment, the approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.



HON. ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4415

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA**

AN ACT
DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF ROMBLON A MINING FREE ZONE AND
PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives
of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. The Province of Romblon is hereby declared a mining free zone and all mining operations in the Province of Romblon are hereby prohibited.

As used in this Act, mining shall refer to the extraction of valuable minerals or other geological materials, excluding gravel, sand and marble, and shall include mining activities involving exploration, feasibility, development, utilization and processing.

SEC. 2. It shall be unlawful for any person to mine or continue to mine or to engage in any mining operation in the Province of Romblon.

SEC. 3. Any person found guilty violating the provisions of this Act shall be penalized with imprisonment of at least six (6) years but not more than twelve (12) years and a fine of at least One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P 100,000.00) but not more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00).

If the offender is a corporation, firm, partnership or association, the penalty shall be imposed upon the officer or officers of the corporation, firm, partnership or association responsible for the violation thereof.

If the offender is an alien, after service of sentence and payment of fine, he will be deported immediately without further proceedings.

SEC. 4. Within three (3) months following the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SEC. 5. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
3rd Floor, RV Mitra Building, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City
Telefax number 951-30-03 Trunkline: 931-5001 local 7161

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

MINUTES OF THE 8TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES HELD ON MAY 25, 2011 (WEDNESDAY), 1:30 P.M. CONFERENCE ROOMS 3 & 4, SPEAKER RAMON V. MITRA, JR. BUILDING, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hon. Francisco T. Matugas - Presiding Officer
Hon. Philip A. Pichay
Hon. Evelyn P. Mellana
Hon. Elmer E. Panotes
Hon. Cesar G. Jalosjos
Hon. Peter M. Unabia, Jr.
Hon. Maximo B. Rodriguez
Hon. Rufus Rodriguez
Hon. Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona
Hon. Ramon H. Durano VI
Hon. Isidro S. Rodriguez, Jr.
Hon. Alfredo D. Maranon III
Hon. Daisy-Avance-Fuentes
Hon. Loreto Ocampos
Hon. Herminia B. Roman
Hon. Pedro B. Acharon, Jr.
Hon. George P. Arnalz
Hon. Jeffrey P. Ferrer
Hon. Emil R. Ong
Hon. Luzviminda C. Ilagan
Hon. Edgar S. San Luis
Hon. Josellito Andrew R. Mendoza
Hon. Carlos M. Padilla
Hon. Eduardo R. Gullas
Hon. Jesus Emmanuel Paras
Hon. Bernardo M. Vergara
Hon. Rodel M. Batocabe
Hon. Ma. Valentina G. Plaza
Hon. Juan Edgardo M. Angara

Hon. Ma. Theresa Bonoan-David

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. with the Honorable Francisco T. Matugas presiding. On a motion made and duly seconded, there being no objection, the calling of the roll was dispensed with.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

On a motion made duly seconded, there being no objection, the reading of minutes of the previous meeting was dispensed with and the same was approved.

III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS/RESOURCE PERSONS

The Committee Secretary acknowledged the guests and resource persons in attendance.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Chairman Matugas said that the committee would discuss measures which establish protected area, land classification and mining ban. With the presence of experts coming from a different sectors, he believed that the committee will be able to satisfy the merits of the proposed measures.

V. DELIBERATION ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURES:

- 1. House Bill No. 4105**, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING A PARCEL OF LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AN AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR TOWN SITE PURPOSE OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SALVADOR BENEDICTO, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," by Hon. Julio A. Ledesma IV
- 2. House Bill No. 2448**, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING THE FORMER CHIONGBIAN GRAZING LANDS LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUTALAC, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, OPEN TO DISPOSITION FOR AGRICULTURAL, RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND OTHER PRODUCTIVE PURPOSES," by Hon. Cesar G. Jalosjos, Seth Frederick P. Jalosjos, Romeo M. Jalosjos, Jr., Ranulfo P. Canonigo and Jonathan C. Yambao
- 3. House Bill No. 897**, entitled: "AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE CAMOTES ISLANDS, PROVINCE OF CEBU, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PROCLAMATION NO. 2152 DATED DECEMBER 29, 1981, ENTITLED 'DECLARING THE ENTIRE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AND CERTAIN PARCELS OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AND/OR PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AS MANGROVE SWAMP FOREST RESERVES'," by Hon. Ramon "Red" H. Durano VI

Since the above-stated bills had been approved by the committee in the 14th Congress, Rep. Pichay moved for the omnibus approval of HBs 4195, 2448 and 897, seconded by Rep. Unabia, there being no objection, the same were approved.

4. **House Bill No. 850**, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BATAAN NATURAL PARK, SUBIC WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE AND ROOSEVELT PROTECTED LANDSCAPE SITUATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF DINALUPIHAN, HERMOSA, ORANI, SAMAL, ABUCAY, BAGAC AND MORONG IN THE PROVINCE OF BATAAN AND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SUBIC, PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES AND THE CITY OF OLONGAPO, AS ONE PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," by Hon. Herminia B. Roman

Rep. Roman said that HB 850 would establish Bataan Natural Park, Subic Watershed and Forest Reserve as one protected area under the National Integrated Areas System or the NIPAS Act. She said that Philippine ecosystem is among the hottest biodiversity hotspots in the world because it has several species per square meter of territory. It is identified as one of the leading "megadiversity" countries by scientists and international institutions. However, the rate of habitat destruction is also among the highest in the world. Her bill if enacted into law would be a noteworthy compliance with our country's international commitments to environmental protection and conservation, she added.

Ms. Teresita Blastique of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) expressed her agency's full support to the passage of the bill into law. However, she suggested the inclusion of the technical description of the area in the bill.

Ms. Amethya Dela Llana-Koval of SBMA Ecology Center also expressed support to the proclamation of one protected area composed of the Subic Watershed Forest Reserve, Roosevelt Protected Landscape and Bataan Natural Park to be named as Subic-Bataan-Roosevelt Natural Park. However, she recommended that the three areas be proclaimed separately and each has its own Protected Area Management Board (PAMB). He said that she already submitted their position paper on the bill to the committee.

Rep. Roman noted the latter's recommendation.

Mr. Jesus Gerardo of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) committed to submit a technical description of HB 850 in one month's time.

Moved by Rep. Panotes, duly seconded by Rep. Mendoza, there being no objection, the body approved HB 850, subject to amendment and style.

5. **House Bill No. 3519**, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING PAMITINAN CAVE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RODRIGUEZ, PROVINCE OF RIZAL AS A PROTECTED LANDSCAPE PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," by Hon. Isidro S. Rodriguez, Jr.

Rep. Isidro Rodriguez used the explanatory note as his introductory statement of the bill. He said that his bill would preserve and develop the subject area for eco-tourism, and protect the biologically important area as habitat for rare endangered flora and fauna.

RED Zuniga of DENR-Region 4B expressed full support to the passage of the bill into law.

Mr. Jesus Gerardo of the National Mapping and Resources Information Authority (NAMRIA) and Ms. Teresita Blastique of the Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) expressed their support to the passage of the bill.

Ms. Lucila Alvarez Jaime, member of Pamintan Board interposed no objection to the bill.

Rep. Panotes moved to approve the bill, seconded by Rep. Ilagan, there being no objection, the committee approved HB 3519.

6. **House Bill No. 3832**, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING MT. MATUTUM LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF POLOMOLOK, TAMPAKAN AND TUPI, PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF MALUNGON, PROVINCE OF SARANGANI AS A PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPE, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," by Hon. Daisy Avance-Fuentes, Pedro B. Acharon and Emmanuel D. Pacquiao

Rep. Daisy Avance-Fuentes apprised the committee about the importance of Mt. Matutum not only in Mindanao but to the whole country as well. It is a habitat and sanctuary of many endemic species and a catchment area for several drainages in the nearby areas. It has been declared as a protected area by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 552 but as required by law, Congress still has to enact a law to declare the area under NIPAS.

Forester Ali Hadjinasser, representing DENR-Region 12 interposed no objection to the bill.

Ms. Teresita Blastique also expressed support to the bill but she suggested the verification of the technical description of the land being said in the bill.

Mr. Jesus Gerardo likewise expressed support to the bill and agreed to the suggestion that the technical description of the area mentioned in the bill be verified.

Rep. Avance-Fuentes agreed to the said suggestion and requested the committee that any amendment raised in the bill, Rep. Acharon and Rep. Pacquiao shall be notified.

Rep. Acharon moved to approve the bill subject to the submission of the technical description, seconded by Rep. Roman, hearing no objection, the committee approved HB 3832 subject to amendment and style.

7. **House Bill No. 4399**, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING THE AGUSAN MARSH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY AS A PROTECTED AREA AND AS A SPECIAL ECOLOGICAL TOURISM ZONE, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," by Hon. Evelyn P. Mellana

Rep. Mellana sponsored HB 4399 using its explanatory note. She apprised the body that his district has submitted a board resolution endorsing her bill.

RED Sibbaluca of the DENR-CARAGA expressed full support to the passage of the bill into law.

Ms. Blastique and Mr. Gerardo likewise expressed support to the bill.

Rep. Pichay moved for the approval of the bill, there being no objection, the body approved the same with all members and ex-officio members present as co-authors.

8. **House Bill No. 2192**, entitled: "AN ACT RECLASSIFYING THE TOWN PROPER AND ADJACENT LANDS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SILVINO LUBOS, NORTHERN SAMAR FROM TIMBERLAND TO ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE LANDS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE," by Hon. Emil L. Ong

Rep. Emil Ong said that his bill is a re-filed bill from the previous 14th Congress. It underwent exhaustive discussion and passed in 2nd reading. Should this bill be approved into law, the bona-fide occupants could already apply for title of the lands they tilled for a long period of time and therefore the revenue collection of the locality would be enhanced.

Mr. Ramon Unay, representing DENR-Region VIII said that they have no objection to the bill provided that the final survey of the said area be conducted.

On a motion made by Rep. Panotes, seconded by Rep. Ilagan, there being no objection, the committee approved HB 2192.

9. **House Bill No. 2677**, entitled: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE ORIGINAL AREA OF BIAK NA BATO NATIONAL PARK (BNBNP), A HISTORICAL LANDMARK OF THE PROVINCE OF BULACAN SITUATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN MIGUEL FOR ITS PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," by Hon. Joselito R. Mendoza

Rep. Mendoza said that they had endeavored to stop mining operation in Biak-Na-Bato for so long. Non Government Organizations (NGOs), environmentalists and local governments had protested to stop the irrational mining exploration therein and now that they won the fight they want to preserve and prevent the recurrence of the said destruction of the area. He stressed the necessity to reinstate the original area of Biak Na Bato National Park as provided for under Presidential Proclamation No. 223. The area of Biak Na Bato was reduced due to the encroachment of mining activities, he recalled.

Rep. Panotes manifested his intention to be a co-author of HB 2677.

Ms. Blastique expressed her agency's support to the bill.

On a motion made by Rep. Pichay, seconded by Rep. Panotes, there being no objection, the body approved HB 2677 with all members and non-members present as co-authors.

10. **House Bill No. 3909**, entitled: "AN ACT RECLASSIFYING SOME PORTIONS OF THE BUFFER ZONE OF MT. MALINDANG IN MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL INTO ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN FOR THE PURPOSE

OF DISTRIBUTING THE SAME TO BONA FIDE FARMERS THEREOF," by Hon. Loreto Leo S. Ocampos

Rep. Ocampos said that if his bill would be passed into law, it would address the inability of the farmer-occupants to own the land they tilled for a long period of time and would therefore enhance revenue collection of the affected locality. He stressed that some coordinates are projecting Indian ocean which is really impossible and ridiculous.

OJC RED Corazon B. Gallinato of the DENR Region X expressed her opposition to the passage of the bill into law. She said that converting the buffer zone of Mt. Malindang Protected Area is not a solution to the problem of the said farmer-occupants in the area. It just make the area prone to timber poaching and entry of illegal occupants. The farmers can be granted a tenurial instrument renewable every 25 years, instead. She further said she already submitted the DENR-Region X position paper on the bill.

Mr. Gerardo disclosed that they have finished delineating the whole Misamis Occidental but his office has no technical description on Mt. Malindang alone.

Rep. Ocampos said that the technical description of his bill is different from the DENR which is the output of the Regional Assessment and Delineation Teams (RADT) of DENR-Region X which conducted delineation of permanent forestland boundaries and land use assessment of the province of Misamis Occidental in 2008.

Rep. Ocampos stated that he will sit down with DENR as they go along the crafting of his bill.

Rep. Paras said that the DENR must provide the final evaluation as far as the metes and bounds of the proposed area is concerned.

Mr. Gerardo commented that when it comes to a technical description on the area for conversion, their recommendation most often adopted.

Rep. Matugas shared his observation that sometimes the actual ground survey output can be incorrectly translated. However, it must still be the responsibility of the DENR to provide the correct one.

Hearing several issues raised on the bill, Rep. Ocampos requested for the deferment of the deliberation of HB 3909, seconded by Rep. Pichay, the committee deferred the consideration of HB 3909.

11. **House Bill 4390**, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN WITHIN THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR AS AGRICULTURAL LANDS OPEN TO DISPOSITION FOR AGRICULTURAL, RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL OR OTHER PRODUCTIVE PURPOSES," by Rep. Evelyn P. Mellana

Rep. Mellana said that her bill declares parcels of land of the public domain within the second district of Agusan Del Sur as agricultural and other productive purposes.

Rep. Angara said that HB 560 would proclaim Aurora Memorial Protected Landscape, Dinalupihan River Protected Landscape, Talaytay River Protected Landscape, Amro River Protected Landscape and Simbahan-Talagas protected Landscape, under NIPAS. These areas are among the priority sites for biodiversity conservation in the country. He appealed to the body to approve the proposed measure to prevent further deterioration brought about by the extractive activity of mining, logging and high human population density in the area.

Ms. Blastique relayed her agency's support to the bill. She said the areas to be declared protected belong to the key biodiversity area.

Mr. Gerardo likewise expressed his strong support to the passage of the bill. He said that they have already a technical description on the subject areas.

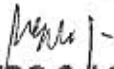
Rep. Padilla moved for the approval of the bill, seconded by Rep. Panotes, there being no objection, the body approved HB 560 with all members and no-members present as co-authors.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY TO THE CORRECTNESS OF THE FOREGOING MINUTES.

Prepared by:


VENERANDO C. LOFRANCO
Supervising Legislative Staff Officer I

Noted by:


RAUL G. TERSO
Committee Secretary

Approved by:

FRANCISCO T. MATUGAS
Chairman