

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 436



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

RESOLUTION
STRONGLY URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
(DPWH) TO STOP CUTTING DOWN CENTURIES-OLD TREES
IN THE CITIES OF CARCAR AND NAGA IN CEBU

WHEREAS, centuries-old roadside trees in Carcar City are set to be cut down today to "give way for the Metro Cebu Expressway Project as part of the Duterte administration's flagship 'Build, Build, Build' program. When completed, the 73-kilometer highway would connect the southern city to Danao City in the north¹;"

WHEREAS, the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) granted the permit to cut down at least 32 trees in Carcar City and another 151 in Naga City;

WHEREAS, online and on-the-ground petitions, which are still up and circulated in various schools and communities, have thus far gathered thousands of supporters for saving the trees;

WHEREAS, a part of one petition, started by Milk Joy Pactores on October 9, highlights the importance of saving the trees, "everyone knows what trees do for us. Let us not sacrifice Earth's lungs for our human convenience. We might not feel the effects now but our future generation surely will²;"


WHEREAS, another petition by Tingog Kinaiyahan (Voice of Nature) reiterates the need to halt plans to cut down more trees: "On safety, the incidences of accidents involving the identified trees for slaughter is weak. There is not much actual evidence or numbers presented to use safety as justification of cutting down healthy, viable trees. If one cannot see the trees while driving as we have done so all our lives down south then maybe one is not fit to drive. There are also no scientific reports presented that condemn the identified trees as sick or rotten. The trees South of Cebu are part of our Culture and Heritage as a Cebuano aside from the Environmental Protection they give the inhabitants of the island. Naga and Carcar will not be the same without those trees nor will the future of our children³;"

WHEREAS, on October 15, youth, students and advocates from manifold backgrounds and sectors come together to form a human barricade along Naga-Carcar Road to express their solid commitment to stand against the cutting of the centuries-old trees in the area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives hereby strongly urges DPWH to stop cutting down the iconic, centuries-old roadside trees in the cities of Carcar and Naga in Cebu;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the CENRO revoke the permit providing the green light for this slaughter, and study, along with the DPWH, all other options to proceed with the project but not at the expense of iconic South Cebu trees, the people and the planet.

Adopted,



Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Party-list

References:

1. Macasero, Ryan(2019) *Cebuanos launch campaign to save centuries-old roadside trees from gov't project*. Rappler.com. Published: October 11, 2019. Date retrieved: October 15, 2019 from <https://www.rappler.com/move-ph/242325-cebuanos-campaign-save-centuries-old-trees>
2. Pactores, Milk Joy(2019). *Save the Trees in Carcar, Cebu*. Petitiontime.com. Date retrieved: October 15, 2019 from <https://www.petitiontime.com/Save-The-Trees-in-Carcar-Cebu-t-5011>
3. Tingog Kinaiyahan (2019). *Stop the SLAUGHTER of the Trees! Protect NAGA Cebu Trees! Protect iconic Cebu South Trees!* Change.org. Date retrieved: October 15, 2019 from <https://www.change.org/p/rodrigo-duterte-stop-the-slaughter-of-the-trees-protect-naga-cebu-trees-protect-iconic-cebu-south-trees>