

1993-09-24

Republic of the Philippines
PALAWAN COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
(R.A. 7611)
Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

Excerpts from the Minutes of the 18th Council Meeting of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development held at the Emerald Plaza, Puerto Princesa City on 24 September 1993.

Present:

Gov. Salvador P. Socrates	-	Chairman
Cong. David A. Ponce de Leon	-	Vice-Chairman
Exec. Dir. Arthur R. Ventura	-	Secretary
Cong. Alfredo A. Abueg, Jr.	-	Member
Kgd. Rodolfo C. Flordeliza	-	Member
Mr. Vic Milan	-	Member
Mayor Wenceslao de las Alas	-	Member
Vice-Gov. Joel T. Reyes	-	Member
Atty. Teodoro Q. Pena	-	Member
Rev. Fr. Armando R. Limsa	-	Member
Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn	-	Member
Edgar M. Sandalo representing Usec. Joemari Gerochi	-	Member
Capt. R.B. Reyes representing Rear Admiral Pio H. Garrido	-	Member
Dir. Alfredo S. Pascual representing Usec. Ricardo M. Umali	-	Member

Absent:

Deputy Dir.-Gen. Aniceto M. Sobrepena	-	Member
Usec. Ricardo M. Umali	-	Member
Rear Adm. Pio H. Garrido	-	Member
Usec. Joemari Gerochi	-	Member

PCSD RESOLUTION NO. 93-34

RESOLUTION ADHERING TO THE DECLARED STATE POLICY OF ESTABLISHING AN INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM FOR THE COUNTRY AS MANDATED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7586, AND CONSISTENT WITH THE COMPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT 7611, DECLARING CERTAIN ISLANDS IN THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AS THE INITIAL COMPONENTS OF THE SAID SYSTEM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7586 enacted in June 1992 mandates the establishment of a national integrated protected area system (NIPAS) in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, under Sec. 5 of the above-mentioned law the initial components of the national integrated protected area system (NIPAS) shall be those areas previously declared as such under existing laws, decrees, proclamations and executive orders;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7611 enacted in June 1992 providing for the Strategic Environmental Program for the Province of Palawan to be carried out by this August Body, complements Republic Act No. 7586, particularly in the matter of establishing the Environmentally-Critical Areas Network (ECAN) whose principal feature is the identification and segregation of

the core zones of the said network in the terrestrial and marine areas of the Province of Palawan;

WHEREAS, Presidential Proclamation No. 219 issued on 2 July 1967 declared the entire Province of Palawan as a game refuge and bird sanctuary and the small islands therein as national reserves closed to exploitation and settlement;

WHEREAS, the above-cited proclamation was amended by Presidential Proclamation No. 530-B issued on 8 March 1969 which deleted the phrase "closed to exploitation and settlement" in Presidential Proclamation No. 219, thereby giving the impression that such small islands in the province was already opened anew for exploitation and settlement;

WHEREAS, in a certain presidential clarification issued in 1970, it was made to appear that only islands having an area of 50,000 hectares or more are open to exploitation and settlement; those with less than said area remained under the prohibition of Presidential Proclamation No. 219;

WHEREAS, records in the Office of the President disclose that the said presidential clarification was never formalized as an amendatory proclamation and could therefore be considered as non-existing;

WHEREAS, the above-discussed matters notwithstanding, Presidential Proclamation No. 219 and its amendatory proclamation have been superseded by Republic Act 7586 in conjunction with Republic Act No. 7611 which are now the governing laws in so far as the Province of Palawan is concerned;

WHEREAS, in due recognition of the fact that the greater majority of the small islands in the province of Palawan with an area of less than 50,000 hectares are already subject to vested private rights in favor of their rightful occupants and claimants who personally and/or through their predecessors-in-interest have invested time, resources and efforts in improving the same over a period of time invariably antedating Presidential Proclamation No. 219, and in order to give impetus to the tourism development program of the province and considering further that the said greater majority of these islands have not been identified and officially segregated as bird or wildlife sanctuaries under Presidential Proclamation No. 219 or any other proclamation, this August Body believes that an official declaration is now proper and timely to identify which of these small islands are to constitute the initial components of the NIPAS in order that correspondingly, the small islands not so officially declared may once and for all be opened anew for exploitation and development and their rightful occupants issued their corresponding land titles and other tenurial rights subject to existing rules and regulations.

WHEREAS, in the Province of Palawan, only the following islands have been officially identified and declared as bird and wildlife and/or marine sanctuaries and reserves:

1. Ursula Island
2. Calauit Island
3. Tubbataha Reefs
4. Certain small, uninhabited and unmaned islands within the El Nido Marine Sanctuary