

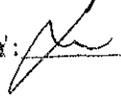


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session

'11 FEB 24 P 4:30

SENATE

P.S. Resolution No. 400

RECORDED BY: 

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

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**RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION TO CHECK ON THE ALLEGED TRANSPORT AND EXPLOITATION OF "CENTURIES-OLD" LOGS IN ALBAY AND DIRECTING THE NATIONAL MUSEUM TO CONDUCT AN ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE AREA WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF PRESERVING THIS HISTORICAL MARINE WONDER AS AN EVIDENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES' ROLE IN THE HISTORY OF GLOBAL COMMERCE**

**WHEREAS**, Section 14 of Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines provides that:

***"The State shall foster the preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of a Filipino national culture based on the principle of unity in diversity in a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression."***

**WHEREAS**, Section 16 of the same declares that:

***"all the country's artistic and historic wealth constitutes the cultural treasure of the nation and shall be under the protection of the State which may regulate its disposition";***

**WHEREAS**, The Philippines have played a significant role in international maritime commerce by serving as the far eastern trading center of the vast Spanish Empire during the Galleon Trade<sup>1</sup>, it was a time where majority of the Asian luxuries in Europe was brought in by the Manila Galleons from the Port of Manila to the Port of Acapulco in Mexico;

**WHEREAS**, as center of this trade galleons would often seek shelter on safe natural harbors of the Bicol Peninsula to keep safe from the perils of the sea, on the return voyage, galleons would often dock at these harbors to replenish their supply of fresh water as well as food<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, one such harbor is located at Barangay Sula in the Municipality of Bacacay, Province of Albay, having been blessed with a natural

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<sup>1</sup> Draped in Silk: The Journey of the Manton de Manila, Yuchengco Museum, as cited in <http://www.yuchengcomuseum.org/press-room/Draped%20in%20Silk%20-%20about%20the%20galleon%20trade.pdf> Feb. 24, 2011 3:00 PM

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Danilo Madrid Gerona, The Spanish Galleons in Kabikolan, Ateneo de Naga University

harbor, the Spanish galleons would dock at piers constructed of sturdy logs that were hauled from nearby forests<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, most of these logs have been preserved under water and are even visible in low tide, carbon dating by the Beta Analytic Inc. found out that the earliest logs have been buried in 1650<sup>4</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, these cultural treasures are threatened by the practice of having them hauled and transported to other places for sale and other purposes;

**WHEREAS**, some of those who transport the logs have been granted permits by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources which cited Administrative Ordinance No. 2000-78 which only covers regulations in the recovery and dispositions of abandoned logs, drifted logs, sunken logs, uprooted and fire and typhoon-damaged trees, tree stumps, tops and branches which clearly does not include these historical and cultural heritage<sup>5</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, there is a great need for the National Historical Commission to come up with a policy on these logs in order to protect those that remain in the waters and to preserve those that have already been hauled but has been confiscated by the authorities;

**WHEREAS**, an archeological survey is also necessary in order for the present generation to understand the true story of these logs and for the people to Bicolandia to realize the true historical and cultural value of these treasure found in their waters.

**NOW, WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to urge the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the National Historical Commission to check on the alleged transport and exploitation of “centuries-old” logs in Albay and direct the national museum to conduct an archeological survey of the area with the objective of preserving this historical marine wonder as an evidence of the Philippines’ role in the history of global commerce.

Adopted,

  
**MANNY VILLAR**

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<sup>3</sup> As cited in <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/inquirerheadlines/regions/view/20110223-321877/Centuries-old-logs-found-in-Albay> Feb 24, 2011 3:00 PM

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Ibid