

SENATE
P. S. R. No. **1148**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DISMAL STATE OF BATAAN CORAL REEFS
AND TO CRAFT LEGISLATION INTENSIFYING COASTAL RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS OF THE GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article II, Section 16 states that: "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

WHEREAS, the 15 June 2009 issue of the *Philippine Star* reported that the Philippine office of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) said that the once healthy coral reefs in the outskirts of the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) now has become a barren graveyard of broken algae-encrusted rubble;

WHEREAS, the town of Morong near the BNPP is a known resting site for the endangered olive-ridley sea turtles, the smallest of the world's seven sea turtle species and globally classified as vulnerable by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature;

WHEREAS, WWF-Philippines claimed that the intensifying tropical storms and the unchecked blast and cyanide fishing can be blamed for the damage in the reefs;

WHEREAS, officials of WWF-Philippines reportedly recommended a period of respite from harmful fishing practices to drastically improve the productivity of the coastal area;

WHEREAS, WWF-Philippines' also recommended a similar coastal management effort made in the world-renowned Tubbataha Reefs off the coast of Palawan from 2004 to 2005, which resulted to the doubling of fish biomass from 166 to 218 metric tons per square kilometer;

WHEREAS, WWF-Philippines claimed that aggressive coastal resource management efforts always produce favourable results for both local communities and tourists;

WHEREAS, existing government programs from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and should consider intensifying its coastal resource management efforts not only in the reefs of Bataan but also in other parts of the country considering the number and intensifying levels of typhoons that pass through the country;

WHEREAS, the lingering presence of blast and cyanide fishing in aquatic areas of concern signals inadequacy in government efforts to police and to eliminate these practices;

WHEREAS, the preservation of the country's coral reefs is tantamount to bolstering both the fishing and tourism industry;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved in the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the *dismal state of Bataan coral reefs* and to craft legislation intensifying coastal resource management programs of the government.

Adopted,


WILLIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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