



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE
P.S.R. No. 442

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

**A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE
NEED TO TRANSFER MALI, THE ONLY ELEPHANT IN
CAPTIVITY IN THE PHILIPPINES, TO A SANCTUARY IN
THAILAND DUE TO HER WEAK HEALTH CONDITION**

WHEREAS, Section 1 of Republic Act No. 8485 or the Animal Welfare Act states that *"it is the purpose of this Act to protect and promote the welfare of all animals in the Philippines by supervising and regulating the establishment and operations of all facilities utilized for breeding, maintaining, keeping, treating or training of all animals either as objects of trade or as household pets"*;

WHEREAS, Section 6 of the same law states that *"it shall be unlawful for any person to torture any animal, to neglect to provide adequate care, sustenance or shelter, or maltreat any animals or to subject any dog or horse to dogfights or horse fights, kill or cause or procure to be tortured or deprived of adequate care sustenance or shelter, or maltreat or use the same in research or experiments not expressly authorized by the Committee on Animal Welfare"*;

WHEREAS, Mali is the only captive elephant in the Philippines. She was born in Sri Lanka in 1974 and was only 3 years old when she was removed from her home and family, and brought to the Manila Zoo;

WHEREAS, at the Manila Zoo, Mali spends her days unaccompanied in a desolate enclosure, which provides her with no opportunity to engage in any of the activities that elephants need for their physical, mental, and emotional health;

WHEREAS, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums in the United States and the Australian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria require accredited facilities to provide a minimum enrichment in the enclosures, including rocks, tree stumps, or large objects for rubbing against and scratching;

WHEREAS, Mali does not have any of these minimum enrichment except for a small pool at the back of her enclosure;

WHEREAS, the lack of exercise and long hours spent standing on a hard surface contribute significantly to foot infections and arthritis, which are leading causes of death among captive elephants;

WHEREAS, the People for the Ethical Treatment of the Animals (PETA), the largest animal rights organization in the world, reported that Mali developed health problems due to her 36-year stay in the Manila Zoo without receiving proper care and attention;

WHEREAS, in April 2008, Manila Zoo officials reportedly ordered "therapy sessions" for their "stressed-out-animals", including Mali. Her therapy consisted of a block of ice with fruit inside;

WHEREAS, elephants like Mali do not need ice blocks, rubber balls, and dead tree limbs; they need what no zoo can provide - vast savannahs, lakes, ponds, and most essentially, the company of other elephants;

WHEREAS, the Manila Zoo should follow the progressive lead of zoos in United Kingdom and United States as both countries closed their elephant exhibits and sent their elephants to appropriate sanctuaries;

WHEREAS, Mali's transfer to a sanctuary would not be only kind but also lifesaving. According to a study conducted by the Journal of Science, zoo elephants despite facing no predators, lived only half as long as elephants who lived in the wild in a more natural habitat;

WHEREAS, Manila Zoo should do what is right and send Mali to a sanctuary where she can live the remainder of her life in comfort and in the company of other elephants;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE TO DIRECT THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED TO TRANSFER MALI, THE ONLY ELEPHANT IN CAPTIVITY IN THE PHILIPPINES, TO A SANCTUARY IN THAILAND DUE TO HER WEAK HEALTH CONDITION SO THAT SHE CAN LIVE THE REMAINDER OF HER LIFE IN COMFORT AND IN THE COMPANY OF OTHER ELEPHANTS.


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III