



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

14 FEB 24 A11:30

SENATE
P.S.R. No. 527

RECEIVED BY: *fi*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTS OF VANDALISM FOUND IN CORAL REEFS IN
LAPU-LAPU CITY

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution 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, Republic Act No. 9147, also known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, pursues, with due regard to the national interest, the Philippine commitment to international convention, protection of wildlife and their habitat;

WHEREAS, GMA News online, on 18 February 2014, reported that underwater graffiti were found in a coral reef in Lapu-Lapu City by Task Force Kalikasan (TFK) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);

WHEREAS, TFK reportedly said that the graffiti were shown to be chemically etched on several plate corals at Brgy. Maribago's Kontiki Wall, an island in Mactan, Cebu;

WHEREAS, it was reported that several of the writings were in *hangul*, the native writing language of Koreans, while many of the words feature names of various divers;

WHEREAS, according to TFK officers, the chemicals used to vandalize the corals have harmful elements that may affect marine life beyond the coral lines;

WHEREAS, TFK reportedly urged both local and foreign divers to refrain from vandalizing the reefs;

WHEREAS, Congress should look into this illegal activity that persists despite the implementation of various laws in the country protecting marine wildlife and their habitat, as well as its effects on the environment;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported vandalism found in coral reefs in Lapu-Lapu City.

Adopted.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
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