

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



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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 596

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ILLEGAL TRADE OF PHILIPPINE COBRAS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROTECTING THESE ENDANGERED SPECIES

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9147 otherwise known as the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act provides that it is illegal to kill wildlife species, and further prohibits the hunting and trading of wildlife and their by-products and derivatives;

WHEREAS, the Philippine cobra (*Naja philippinensis*) is a burly and highly venomous snake that is native to the Philippines and is now considered endangered due to the rapid decline in its population;

WHEREAS, in a documentary about the illegal trade of Philippine cobras, it was shown that live cobras are caught and sold on the black market for the manufacture of medicines, oil and wine, among other products that are also made from the bodies and organs of these snakes;

WHEREAS, poachers, who are mostly farmers, hunt Philippine cobras in ricefields in the northern parts of the country for sale to traders for Php100.00 a kilo who in turn sell these endangered reptiles on the black market for as much as Php1,000.00 per kilogram;

WHEREAS, these poachers, having no other source of income, risk their lives for a measly sum of money everytime they scour the ricefields to hunt for poisonous cobras, usually without the necessary protective gear other than their typical farming clothes;

WHEREAS, the government needs to look into efforts that will provide these cobra poachers alternative livelihood for them to give up poaching, which not only endangers the natural ecosystem but moreso the lives of those engaged in this activity;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to investigate and look into this matter with the end in view of protecting the endangered Philippine cobra before they reach the brink of extinction;

WHEREAS, it is of importance that the economics of wildlife trade in our country be studied in order to craft responsive legislation that promotes alternative livelihood to impoverished poachers who risk their lives hunting these venomous reptiles for a measly return.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, That the Philippine Senate directs the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources and other appropriate Senate Committees to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the illegal trade of Philippine cobras with the end in view of protecting these endangered species.

Adopted,


MANGEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator 