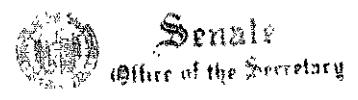


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



*14 APR -7 AM 11:44

SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 597

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROLIFERATION OF UNDERWATER ACTIVITIES WHICH INVOLVE CHEMICAL ETCHING ON CORAL PLATES TO THE DETRIMENT OF OUR MARINE ECOSYSTEM

WHEREAS, early this year news reports revealed the shocking discovery of underwater graffiti which were etched on existing coral formations off the coast of the Island of Cebu;

WHEREAS, the graffiti, which was allegedly made by local and foreign divers, was found by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Task Force Kalikasan on the Kontiki Wall, a dive site off the coast of Maribago, Lapu-Lapu City;

WHEREAS, according to officers of Task Force Kalikasan, the activity did not only vandalize the natural formation of corals but it moreso involves the use of chemicals which may have harmful effects on these aquatic sanctuaries, consequently threatening the harmony of marine life in the area;

WHEREAS, Section 102 of Republic Act No. 8550, otherwise known as the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, prohibits and penalizes aquatic pollution, which is defined as the "introduction by human or machine, directly or indirectly, of substances or energy to the aquatic environment which result or is likely to result in such deleterious effects as to harm living and non-living aquatic resources;"

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to investigate and look into this matter to properly assess the extent of damage that has been dealt to the corals and marine life as a whole and to institute measures that will protect our marine ecosystem and ensure that these practices are not repeated;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, That the Philippine Senate directs the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and other appropriate Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the proliferation of underwater activities which involve chemical etching on coral plates to the detriment of our marine ecosystem.

Adopted,

[Signature]
MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator *[Signature]*