

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



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 752

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED USE OF SHARK MEAT IN FISHBALLS
IN CEBU

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides, “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, furthermore, Republic Act No. 8485, or the Animal Welfare Act of 1998, Section 6 states: “The killing of any animal other than cattle, pigs, goats, sheep, poultry, rabbits, carabao, horse, deer and crocodiles is likewise hereby declared unlawful”;

WHEREAS, an article from Inquirer.net entitled “Shark meat for fish balls seized in Cebu” posted on 14 June 2014 reported that the shark meat trade is alive and well, as evidenced by the apprehension of a shipment of thresher shark (*Alopias pelagicus*) meat in Naga City, Cebu province;

WHEREAS, it was reported that a truck carrying at least 467 kilograms of thresher shark meat, 170 pieces of plastic bags containing shark skin, and a shark torso was intercepted in Naga City around 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday while heading for a fish ball processor in Lapu-Lapu City on Mactan Island in Cebu;

WHEREAS, Loy Madrigal, head of the Cebu Provincial Anti-Illegal Fishing Task Force (CPAIFTF), reportedly said that a tip from a concerned citizen prompted the task force to set up a checkpoint in Barangay Poblacion, Naga City, some 20.2 kilometers south of Cebu City;

WHEREAS, CPAIFTF members allegedly flagged down trucks that passed by Barangay Poblacion and inspected their cargo;

WHEREAS, Allan Empinado, driver of an Isuzu Elf, reportedly refused the inspection, prompting task force members to be suspicious;

WHEREAS, when task force members checked the truck, they allegedly found the shark meat;

WHEREAS, it was reported that documents yielded by the driver showed that the shipment came from Siaton town and was supposed to be delivered to an establishment called “Tirso’s Tempura” in Lapu-Lapu City;

WHEREAS, the report claimed that Empinado and his two helpers—Gerry Atillo, and Daniel Amistoso—were detained at the Naga police station and will be charged with violating an ordinance that bans the capture and sale of thresher sharks;

WHEREAS, it was reported that while there is no national law in the Philippines banning the trading of shark meat, the provinces of Cebu and Batangas have passed local laws against it;

WHEREAS, Gary Cases, a member of the Thresher Shark Research and Conservation Project, reportedly said that the shipment was the biggest haul that his group has recorded;

WHEREAS, Cases said that the thresher sharks were classified as endangered, as it usually takes 11 years for a shark to mature and can only give birth to two offsprings;

WHEREAS, thresher shark meat, according to Cases, is the cheapest fish meat that can be made into fish balls, squid balls and tempura;

WHEREAS, the report claimed that shark meat is the one preferred for fish balls because it is good meat, has a texture like cad and is cheaper;

WHEREAS, shark meat is reportedly sold at P50 to P75 per kilo;

WHEREAS, Madrigal reportedly said that the confiscated shark meat was buried in compliance with an ordinance that bans the consumption of shark meat;

WHEREAS, there is a grave necessity for concerned government agencies to intensify their effort in protecting endangered species as well as to implement stricter policies in the operations of the fishing industry;

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 use of shark meat in fishballs in Cebu.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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