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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1282

RECEIVED BY. 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT ENDANGERED FRUIT BATS IN THE PUKA SHELL BEACH, BORACAY FURTHER DECLINED IN NUMBER DUE TO THE ALLEGED UNCONTROLLED DEVELOPMENT ON THE ISLAND

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 12, Section 2, paragraphs 1 and 2, state that:

All lands of the public domain, waters, wildlife, flora and fauna, and other natural resources are owned by the State;

The State shall protect the nation's marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea, and exclusive economic zone, and reserve its use and enjoyment to Filipino citizens;

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 2 April 2015 reported that there is an on-going online petition launched by the residents and tourists of Boracay Islands to stop the commercial development of Puka Shell Beach and its surrounding forest and wildlife due to the claim that it is the only remaining pristine area in Boracay;

WHEREAS, the petition was reportedly initiated by the Friends of the Flying Foxes (FFF), a non-government organization that advocates the conservation of flying foxes, an endangered fruit bat species found only in Boracay, which play a significant role in the pollination of plants and trees that keep native forests healthy;

WHEREAS, it was claimed that Puka Beach is an undeveloped area surrounded by a forest, which is home to wildlife, such as turtles, lizards, monkeys and birds;

WHEREAS, the proposed Boracay Development Plan 2013-22 allegedly seeks to categorize Puka Beach and its surrounding forest and wildlife as a commercial land;

WHEREAS, it was reported that thousands of bats fly together from their roosting sites to the Aklan mainland, a distance of about 40 kilometers to feed on fruits in the forests;

1           WHEREAS, Aklan became a tourist attraction where visitors wait by the beach at sunset  
2           to view them;


3           WHEREAS, according to the petitioners, the decline in number of these fruit bats, from  
4           about 15,000 in 1986 to 2,238 in April 2014, is caused by the uncontrolled development on the  
5           island;

6           WHEREAS, it is the duty of the State to ensure the protection and preservation of our  
7           environment and endangered species;

8           WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, should strengthen government laws  
9           that prohibit the conversion of wildlife sanctuaries and other biodiversity areas into  
10          commercially developed areas, in order to promote balanced ecology and to conserve natural  
11          resources;

12          WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the  
13          proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that  
14          endangered fruit bats in the Puka Shell Beach, Boracay further declined in number due to the  
15          alleged uncontrolled development on the island.

Adopted,

  
SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
JP

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