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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1371

RECEIVED BY: _____ 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 RESOLUTION
2 DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
3 TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
4 ON THE REPORTED NEED TO BOOST DEFENSES
5 AGAINST POACHERS AROUND PAG-ASA ISLAND

6 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 provides: “The maintenance of peace
7 and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are
8 essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy”;

9 WHEREAS, the Constitution also provides, in Article 2, Section 16: “The State shall
10 protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord
11 with the rhythm and harmony of nature”;

12 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 17 May 2015 reported that local
13 government officials and residents of Pag-asa Island in the West Philippine Sea are calling for a
14 tighter watch against poachers in the area;

15 WHEREAS, stronger presence of the the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine
16 Coast Guard is allegedly required amid illegal activities of foreign fishermen that threaten to
17 deplete marine resource around the island;

18 WHEREAS, the illegal fishermen are said to be mostly Chinese and Vietnamese, with
19 some of them purported to be involved in dynamite and cyanide in fishing;

20 WHEREAS, local maritime police at Pag-asa Island have been quoted in the news,
21 saying that they can chase illegal fishermen off but are incapable of engaging or arresting these
22 poachers due to lack of equipment;

23 WHEREAS, Pag-asa Island is surrounded by 20 to 30 hectares of rich coral reefs that are
24 home to aquarium and commercial fish;

25 WHEREAS, the government should consider increasing the presence of government
26 troops in Pag-asa Island to protect not only marine resources but also residents in the area;

27 WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, must strengthen the capacity of the
28 local maritime police in Pag-asa Island;

1 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
2 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported need to
3 boost defenses against poachers around Pag-asa Island.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
RP

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