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OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1426

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE REPORT THAT A SHIPMENT OF 4,200 ENDANGERED
TURTLES WAS INTERCEPTED IN PALAWAN

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16, provides: "The State shall protect
2 and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the
3 rhythm and harmony of nature";

4 WHEREAS, the Republic Act No. 9147 also known as "Wildlife Resources Conservation
5 and Protection Act," states:

6 It shall be the policy of the State to conserve the country's wildlife
7 resources and their habitats for sustainability. In the pursuit of this policy, this Act
8 shall have the following objectives:

9 (a) to conserve and protect wildlife species and their habitats to promote
10 ecological balance and enhance biological diversity;

11 (b) to regulate the collection and trade of wildlife;

12 (c) to pursue, with due regard to the national interest, the Philippine
13 commitment to international conventions, protection of wildlife and their habitats;
14 and

15 (d) to initiate or support scientific studies on the conservation of biological
16 diversity;

17 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 21 June 2015 reported that authorities in
18 Palawan confiscated a shipment of 4,200 critically endangered forest turtles believed to have
19 been sold in the Chinese black market;

20 WHEREAS, the shipment, found in a warehouse owned by a Chinese trader, allegedly
21 had an estimated value of ₱18 million and consisted mostly of the endangered *Siebenrockiella*
22 *leytensis*, also known as the Philippine pond turtle;

23 WHEREAS, the *Inquirer* said that 90 of the turtles were already dead when found;

1 WHEREAS, the turtles that had been found alive were turned over to the Palawan
2 Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Center, a government-run facility and to the Katala
3 Foundation in preparation for their release in the wild;

4 WHEREAS, these turtle species can reportedly be sold in the Chinese black market at
5 some \$200 a kilo;

6 WHEREAS, the raid was not the first case of poaching discovered in Palawan;


7 WHEREAS, media have previously reported on the April 2013 arrest of 12 Chinese
8 nationals who were later charged with poaching and attempted bribery after their boat got stuck
9 on Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park;

10 WHEREAS, police also reportedly arrested 11 Chinese fishermen off Hasa-Hasa Shoal
11 (Half Moon Shoal) in July 2012 after finding more than 500 endangered marine turtles, most of
12 them dead, on their fishing vessel;

13 WHEREAS, Congress should intensify existing legislation with the aim of improving
14 intersectoral cooperation, legal procedures, and awareness campaigns to address rampant
15 poaching and illegal trading of endangered species in Palawan;

16 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
17 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that a
18 shipment of 4,200 endangered turtles was intercepted in Palawan.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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