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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1473

RECEIVED BY: J.

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE REPORT THAT AUTHORITIES INTERCEPTED AN ILLEGAL SHIPMENT OF
SEASHELLS FROM TUBBATAHA REEFS NATURAL PARK IN PALAWAN

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

4 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9147, also known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation
5 and Protection Act, Section 2, states:

6 Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - It shall be the policy of the State to
7 conserve the country's wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainability. In
8 the pursuit of this policy, this Act shall have the following objectives:

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10 c) to pursue, with due regard to the national interest, the Philippine
11 commitment to international conventions, protection of wildlife and their habitats;

12 WHEREAS, various newspapers reported on 10 July 2015, that elements of the
13 Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Navy and Bureau of Customs have successfully intercepted a
14 boat loaded with protected seashells suspected to have been gathered from the Tubbataha Reefs
15 Natural Park in Palawan;

16 WHEREAS, the joint operatives allegedly conducted the operation after receiving
17 intelligence information that three boats were smuggling cooking oil;

18 WHEREAS, the media however reported that authorities only arrested one boat and
19 found at least six sacks of protected seashells because the two other boats managed to scamper
20 away;

21 WHEREAS, among the poached shipment confiscated were topshells or tronchus
22 niloticus a protected marine species that thrives in Tubbataha Reefs;

1 WHEREAS; Congress, through relevant legislation, must improve monitoring and law
2 enforcement in protected marine areas to deter poachers;

3 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
4 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation on the report that
5 authorities intercepted an illegal shipment of seashells from Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park in
6 Palawan.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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