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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1577

RECEIVED BY: JS

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT
THAT FISHING AND SEAFOOD INDUSTRIES IN CAPIZ PROVINCE ARE SEVERELY
SUFFERING AMID RED TIDE

1 WHEREAS, The Constitution provides, in Article 2, Section 9, 15, and 16:

2 Section 9. The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that
3 will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people
4 from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full
5 employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.

6 Section 15. The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the
7 people and instill health consciousness among them.

8 Section 16. The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and
9 healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

10 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* reported on 29 August 2015 that communities
11 dependent on the fishing and seafood industries in Capiz province face temporary loss of
12 livelihood after the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) issued an advisory
13 declaring red tide contamination in the areas covered by the bay;

14 WHEREAS, shellfish toxicity level allegedly reached 74 microgram saxitoxin
15 (ugSTXeg)/100 grams of shellfish meat, beyond the limit of 60 ugSTXeg/100 grams;

16 WHEREAS, the BFAR explained that red tide phenomenon occurs when algae rapidly
17 multiplies, producing toxins that can be fatal to humans and other wildlife;

18 WHEREAS, Sapián Bay stretches for at least 30 kilometers, covering the towns of
19 Sapián and Ivisan in Capiz, and Batán town in the neighboring province of Aklan and the alert,
20 which discourages gathering, eating, or selling shellfish from the area, would be indefinite and
21 would depend on the result of continuous monitoring of water condition;

22 WHEREAS, about 60 percent of Sapián's 29,000 residents are dependent on fishing and
23 shell gathering;

1 WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, should ensure that the level of
2 cleanliness and safety of Philippine waters are constantly monitored by relevant agencies;

3 WHEREAS, legislation that will provide support to fisher folk during red tide must also
4 be considered;

5 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
6 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that fishing
7 and seafood industries in Capiz Province are severely suffering amid red tide.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
RP

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