

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session

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SENATE

P.S. RES NO. 617

Introduced by
SENATORS M. A. MADRIGAL and AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR.

RESOLUTION

HONORING AND COMMENDING THE VALIANT MEN AND WOMEN OF TUBBATAHA REEF FOR THEIR DEVOTION, SACRIFICE, HARD WORK AND EXEMPLARY CONDUCT IN PROTECTING AND PRESERVING THIS NATURAL WORLD HERITAGE SITE.

Whereas, some areas in the Province of Palawan remain unspoiled and untouched by human exploitation and therefore continue to exist in their natural state;

Whereas, the Tubattaha Reef in the Province of Palawan is acknowledged as one of the last marine sanctuaries in the Philippines;

Whereas, the reef structure of Tubbataha consists of both fringing and atoll reefs, and harbors an almost unequalled diversity of marine life equal to or greater than any such area in the world.;

Whereas, Tubbataha features more than 300 coral species, 380 fish species and eight species of marine mammals,

Whereas, because of its rich and unique biodiversity, Tubbataha has been declared by UNESCO as a Natural World Heritage Site since 11 December 1993;

Whereas, its abundance in unique and much sought-after marine life has made it attractive to poaching activities by international commercial fishing operations;

Whereas, were it not for the vigilance, hard work, perseverance and sacrifice of the valiant men and women involved in the protection and preservation of the Tubbataha Reef, this World Heritage Site would have been illegally plundered by the Chinese fishing vessel "Hoi Wan" last 21 December 2006 in contravention of both Philippine and international laws, i.e., the National Integrated Protected Area Systems Law (NIPAS); the Fisheries Code, Local

Provincial Ordinance; and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);

Whereas, these men and women, at risk to their lives, continue to devote their time and effort to defend and protect the Tubbataha Reef from poachers, and cause their arrest, prosecution and incarceration;

Whereas, they continue to work beyond the call of duty despite the apparent negligence of the Executive Department in performing its responsibilities in protecting the Tubbataha Reef;

Whereas, for their valuable contribution to the preservation of the Tubbataha Reef, it is deemed fit to give due recognition to the following valiant men and women: **MS. ANGELIQUE SONGCO** of the **TUBBATAHA MANAGEMENT OFFICE**, the officers and staff of the **PALAWAN COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (PCSD)**, **MR. JOSE MA. LORENZO TAN** and **MS. MARIVEL DYGICO** of **WWF-PHILIPPINES**, **ATTY. GRIZELDA MAYO-ANDA** and **ATTY. ADEL VILLENA** of the Environmental Legal Action Center (ELAC), **DIR. MALCOLM SARMIENTO** of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), **ATTY. ANTONIO OPOSA** and the **ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL EAGLES**, **YVETTE LEE** of the Manila Times, the concerned officers of the **PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD** and the **PHILIPPINE NAVY**, and the officers and members of the **PAMBANSANG KILUSANG MAMAMALAKAYA NG PILIPINAS (PAMALAKAYA)**;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines honor and commend these valiant men and women for their devotion, sacrifice, hard work and exemplary conduct in protecting and preserving the Tubbataha Reef, for the future generations.

Adopted,


M. A. MADRIGAL


AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR.