


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

8 APR 28 1931

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 373

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALARMING DEPLETION OF THE  
COUNTRY'S MANGROVE FORESTS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 13, Section 7 states that "The State shall protect the rights of subsistence fishermen, especially of local communities, to the preferential use of the communal marine and fishing resources, both inland and offshore. It shall provide support to such fishermen through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial, production, and marketing assistance, and other services."

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, in its 11 April 2008 issue reported that the Philippines, along with our Southeast Asian neighbors, lost as much as 80 percent of its mangrove forests due to commercial fish farming;

WHEREAS, mangroves serve as marine nurseries for fish, shrimp and other wildlife and as habitats for coastal and migratory birds, and they protect shores against storms and large waves;

WHEREAS, experts pointed out that prawn farming has been one of the causes for the loss of these natural resources because mangrove forests are cleared for prawn farming, especially in countries that do not have a long tradition in aquaculture, and that prawn farms have a limited lifespan of a few years and abandoned farms are virtual wastelands;

WHEREAS, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recognizes the Philippines as center of marine ecosystem diversity, as it is home to around half the world's mangrove species, a few of them endangered species;

WHEREAS, according to experts, a healthy coastal ecosystem needs four hectares of mangroves for every hectare of fishpond, and that the Philippines has an estimated 115,000 ha of mangrove forests and 230,000 ha of fishponds.


WHEREAS, the news report also cites that the enforcement of Republic Act No. 6657, or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, that protects mangrove has been virtually nil;

WHEREAS, the depletion of this natural resource is already at an alarming level, and that the government, by virtue of appropriate and effective legislation, should seek to remedy this situation;

WHEREAS, while prawn farming is also considered a veritable industry for our countrymen, legislators should formulate laws that seek to balance the economic needs with that of environmental protection;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alarming depletion of the country's mangrove forests.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/ptmt