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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1382

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CONTINUED VIOLATION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS WITH REGARD TO THE SHOOTING OF A
PHILIPPINE EAGLE IN TRENTO, AGUSAN DEL SUR

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

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9147, also known as the "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act," provides for the conservation and protection of wildlife species and their habitats to promote ecological balance and enhance biological diversity, and pursues the nation's commitment to international conventions, protection of wildlife and their habitats;

WHEREAS, the same law penalizes the hunting, injuring, killing and destruction of wildlife species;

WHEREAS, the Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyii*) is listed as an endangered species;

WHEREAS, various news reports on 24 September 2009 said that a bullet-ridden Philippine Eagle was found in Trento town, Agusan Del Sur last September 21;

WHEREAS, the report alleged that an examination of the animal's body revealed that the eagle has two gun pellets embedded inside its body, an inch deep from the shoulders;

WHEREAS, veterinary experts from the Philippine Eagle Foundation reportedly said that the nine year old eagle was passive when it was retrieved, meaning that it had been in contact with humans for some time when normally these wild birds are aggressive;

WHEREAS, it can be safely assumed that the eagle came from a conservation center and has been released into captivity;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the identity of the culprit who shot the eagle is being investigated by authorities from the PEF and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources;

WHEREAS, such occurrences of blatant violation of environmental laws point to either a lack of enforcement of those laws, or the difficulty of educating the public about these laws and the importance of wildlife protection and inculcating the concept into the public's culture and awareness;

WHEREAS, steps should be taken to address these shortcomings, and it entails the strengthening of both institutional and educational components in wildlife protection and environmental conservation;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved in the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the continued violation of environmental laws with regard to the shooting of a Philippine eagle in Trento, Agusan del Sur.

Adopted,

acv 
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/ptmt