

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 168

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON STRENGTHENING THE LEGISLATION ON INDIGENOUS AND ENDANGERED SPECIES PATTERNED ON THE ONGOING SUCCESS OF WORLDWIDE EFFORTS BY ENVIRONMENTALIST GROUPS OF PROTECTING AND INCREASING THE GREEN TURTLE POPULATION

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides: "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, the *Manila Times* reported last 2 February 2012 that environmentalist group Conservation International (CI) observed a "baby boom" of endangered green turtles in the country, citing a successful three-decade protection program participated in by other countries;

WHEREAS, CI officials said that stable increases in sea turtle populations were seen in the Turtle Islands sanctuary along the Philippine-Malaysia sea border, where in one of those islands—Baguan—1.44 million turtle eggs were laid last year, which is the highest since 1984;

WHEREAS, CI officials claim that this population could be one of the biggest in the world, alongside those in Australia and Costa Rica where similar conservation efforts are also underway;

WHEREAS, according to the report, the green turtle population perennially faces adversity especially in Asia because their eggs are considered a delicacy, aside from threats from poachers;

WHEREAS, in addition to the coordination of various government agencies including of the Philippine Coast Guard and Philippine Navy, Congress has passed laws on protecting the environment to ensure the survival of green turtles along with other endangered species;

WHEREAS, Congress needs to follow up on its legislation to sustain this development in the survival of the green turtle, and apply the strategy to other endangered flora and fauna in the Philippine islands;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on strengthening the legislation on indigenous and endangered species patterned on the ongoing success of worldwide efforts by environmentalist groups of protecting and increasing the green turtle population.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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