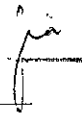


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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 221

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED ILLEGAL TRADE AND TRANSPORT OF INDIGENOUS SNAKES AND SPIDERS THROUGH COURIER SERVICES

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, Republic Act No. 9147, also known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, pursues, with due regard to the national interest, the Philippine commitment to international conventions, protection of wildlife and their habitats;

WHEREAS, according to various news reports, officers of the Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit (WTMU) of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Division (PAWD) prevented on 28 May 2013 the smuggling of snakes such as the Batanes pit vipers (*Trimeresurus flavomaculatus mcgregori*) and other wild animals at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA);

WHEREAS, according to the news reports, an unidentified caller tipped off the WTMU that a courier company DHL is about to export snakes on 28 May 2013 via its delivery system at the NAIA;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the packages lacked the necessary permits from the DENR, thus DHL was forced to surrender the packages to the WTMU agents;

WHEREAS, the packages, declared as shirts and stuffed toys, were reportedly found containing Batanes pit vipers, boa constrictors, pythons, and assorted live tarantulas;

WHEREAS, according to records provided by DHL, the packages containing the snakes come from a certain Jason Guillermo of Barangay Sta. Lucia, Novaliches, Quezon City to be delivered to South Africa; on the other hand, the package containing the spiders reportedly came from a certain Warren Lazibal of Quirino Ave., Las Piñas City and was said to be bound for Jakarta, Indonesia;

WHEREAS, the snakes were reportedly captured and flown into Manila from Batanes airport and later to be sent to different countries worldwide for breeding;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the said reptile are favorites among pet lovers and fetch a high price in the wildlife black market, and that the price of the snakes reportedly range from Php 300 to as high as Php 2000, depending on the color of its scales;

WHEREAS, while this reported act is punishable under R. A. No. 9147, Congress should consider strengthening existing legislation to punish every step of the these illegal acts against Philippine wildlife, from their capture, trade, and transport;

WHEREAS, agencies such as the WTMU should be further empowered to monitor violations of private enterprises involving securing permits as provided in Section 20 of R.A. No. 9147;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine senate to direct the Senate committee on Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged illegal trade and transport of the indigenous snakes and spiders through the courier services.

Adopted,

miriam defensor santiaño
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAÑO

/rjd