

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. **728**

RECEIVED BY: *f*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT THE PHILIPPINES IS AN ECOLOGICAL
HOTSPOT

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 *Philippine Star* on 29 May 2014 reported that according to the opinion of environmental experts, the Philippines is moving towards a clear and serious biological meltdown as it ranks No. 4 in the 19 ecological hotspots of the world;

WHEREAS, a hotspot is a place that has the highest concentration of biodiversity that is under the greatest human threat;

WHEREAS, the head of the research and conservation section of the Philippine Eagle foundation, Jayson Ibañez, reportedly noted that the Philippines is affected by a serious biodiversity loss even if it is one of the 17 top mega diversity countries of the world, and identified as among the richest globally in terms plant and animal species;

WHEREAS, Ibañez reportedly explained that biodiversity is the wealth of all life forms, and is generally defined at three levels, namely, genetic diversity or the variety of hereditary information in every organism; species diversity which refers to the total number of species or kinds of organisms; and the diversity of ecosystems formed by organisms with their environment, or ecosystem diversity;

WHEREAS, Ibañez also reportedly said that almost 90 percent of the Philippine archipelago was forested during the 1900s; however, at present, the country only has about 3-5 percent of its original old growth forest;

WHEREAS, Ibañez claimed that with the loss of the Philippines' forests, the Filipinos do not only lose all creations found therein but also clean and precious water and air and other ecological services that the forests provide;

WHEREAS, Ibañez also reportedly cited mammals, noting that 64 percent of the country's furred critters are purely native to the Philippines;

WHEREAS, biodiversity loss is a global concern and measures to address the continuous loss of the earth's biodiversity have to be immediately introduced;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, to direct proper Senate committee, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the report that the Philippines is an ecological hotspot

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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