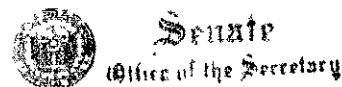


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



'14 JUN 30 P4:33

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. **739**

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED ILLEGAL LOGGING TRADE BETWEEN  
MALAYSIA AND PALAWAN

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 states: "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, Presidential Decree No. 705, or the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines, Section 79 further provides: "No person shall sell or offer for sale any log, lumber, plywood or other manufactured wood products in the international or domestic market unless he complies with grading rules and established or to be established by the Government";

WHEREAS, according to a news article released by Inquirer.net last 23 June 2014, the provincial government of Palawan raised the alarm over the rampant illegal logging trade between Malaysia and this province, noting that Malaysian authorities were allegedly freely allowing illegal logs to enter Malaysia through the town of Kudat in Sabah, which is on the northern tip of Borneo Island;

WHEREAS, Gov. Jose Chaves Alvarez reportedly ordered local authorities to convene and coordinate with civil society groups doing enforcement efforts, and for them to pool resources to end the illegal trade, as it was said to have been significantly affecting the remaining forest areas of southern Palawan, said

WHEREAS, according to an interview with provincial budget consultant Cesar Ventura, provincial police director Supt. David Martinez reportedly witnessed in person the unloading of logs and rattan from southern Palawan on the port of Kudat on 20 June 2014;

WHEREAS, Ventura also reportedly said Martinez was in Kudat for a different purpose when he chanced upon the unloading of logs and rattan on the town's port and immediately reported the matter to the governor via e-mail;

WHEREAS, in his letter to the governor, Martinez reportedly said he found out from the port of Kudat that the shipment came from Palawan; he then informed Alvarez that the record from the port of Kudat showed that in January 2014, 27 motor launches had unloaded logs coming from southern Palawan, and that another 12 motor launches unloaded the same cargo in Kudat this month;

WHEREAS, in his report to Alvarez and furnished to Inquirer.net by Ventura, Martinez said that an average-size motor launch can carry 100 pieces of logs, and a big motor launch has a capacity of 200 pieces of logs;

WHEREAS, Ventura reportedly said they were surprised to learn that illegal logs coming from Palawan were openly being dumped and sold to buyers in Kudat, and that logs and rattan as long were not being confiscated in Kudat Port as long as custom duties and taxes are paid;

WHEREAS, the report of the illegal log shipment came just as the Philippine and Malaysian governments have been working jointly to establish the BIMP-EAGA trade route in the East Asian region that includes, in part, the opening of port facilities in Brooke's Point in southern Palawan and Kudat in Sabah, Malaysia;

WHEREAS, the report of the illegal log shipment came just as the Philippine and Malaysian governments have been working jointly to establish the BIMP-EAGA trade route in the East Asian region that includes, in part, the opening of port facilities in Brooke's Point in southern Palawan and Kudat in Sabah, Malaysia; the East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) is a subregional economic cooperation initiative in Southeast Asia that involves four Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) member-countries, namely, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines;

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the government and concerned agencies to conduct an investigation on this matter to properly identify the perpetrators and the masterminds of this illegal logging trade and to issue mandatory penalties;

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 reported illegal logging trade between Malaysia and Palawan.

Adopted.

*acv. Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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