

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 777

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED SELLING OF ENDANGERED SPECIES OVER THE INTERNET

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, furthermore, Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, Chapter 4, Section 27 states that, "Unless otherwise allowed in accordance with this Act, it shall be unlawful for any person to willfully and knowingly exploit wildlife resources and their habitats, or undertake the following acts; (e) trading of wildlife";

WHEREAS, an article from Inquirer.net, posted on 30 June 2014, reported that law enforcers have arrested a man trading endangered marine species on the internet in Pagadian City possibly as part of an international trafficking syndicate;

WHEREAS, a search in the house of Earl Frederick Galupo in Barangay (village) Lumbia on Wednesday reportedly yielded more than 300 assorted endangered marine and wildlife products;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the search team, led by Environment Undersecretary Ernesto Adobo, found 30 pieces of stalactites, two pieces of shells belonging to hawksbill turtles, 29 pieces of hawksbill scutes (the keratin material that covers turtle shells), 275 pieces of different rare and banned coral species such as black and red corals, tritons, nautilus and several giant clam species;

WHEREAS, Galupo reportedly posted photos of the endangered species online, prompting environment officials to apply for a warrant to search his house;

WHEREAS, Arleigh Adorable, director of the Department of Environment in Natural Resources in Western Mindanao, reportedly said that Galupo had been selling and trading these items online through www.sulit.com, now renamed www.olx.ph, and posted photos of hawksbill turtle carapace on his Facebook account;

WHEREAS, citing their investigation, Adorable allegedly said that Galupo was part of the large-scale network as evidenced by the presence of warehouses and his dealings and business operations, which reached Japan and other countries;

WHEREAS, Galupo was reportedly charged with violation of the Cave Act of 2001, Fisheries Code of 1998 and Wildlife Protection and Conservation Act;

WHEREAS, it was reported that meanwhile, in Talisay City, Cebu province, enforcers arrested two vendors for selling endangered birds in an entrapment operation;

WHEREAS, the report alleged that environment officer Loy Anthony Madrigal posed as a buyer and ordered two owls and two hawks from the two vendors after a three-day negotiation;

WHEREAS, Madrigal reportedly met the vendors in Barangay San Roque in Talisay, who presented 10 birds, including nine on the list of endangered species; these were six umbrella cockatoos, two Philippine hawk eagles and a serpent eagle;


WHEREAS, it was alleged that also seized from the suspects was a newly hatched amethyst brown dove;

WHEREAS, the vendors, whose names were kept confidential pending investigation to identify their supplier, were reportedly charged with violation of the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act;

WHEREAS, stricter policies and regulations in trading wildlife as well as in issuing permits to sell must be implemented; moreover, social media and online selling portals must be utilized in identifying illegal traders of endangered species;

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 selling of endangered species over the internet.

Adopted,

acv

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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