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OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

 **Senate**
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. **788**

RECEIVED 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NEED TO PREVENT THE EXTINCTION OF
LUDONG IN THE PHILIPPINES

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 Standard Today*, on 8 July 2014, reported that Dr. Honorio Yamoyan of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), expressed fear that the Ludong catch of fishermen from the rivers of Cagayan Valley and the Ilocos provinces in the northern Philippines have declined to alarming levels in the past several years, claiming Ludong is close to becoming an endangered species;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the Ludong, a mullet famous for its unique taste and peculiar aroma when cooked, costs as much as P5,000 per kilo in the market; fishermen claim that the fish is seasonal and difficult to catch;

WHEREAS, the fish reportedly thrives in the Abra River and the Cagayan River that runs across the Mountain Province, Abra, Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, and the Cagayan Valley Region;

WHEREAS, the BFAR has banned the use of nets to catch the Ludong and imposed a closed season from October to January but fishermen reported not catching a single fish in 2002 and 2003;

WHEREAS, according to a recent BFAR report, a mature Ludong weighs up to 2 kilograms although in the past several years their sizes shrunk to as much as 0.25 kilograms;

WHEREAS, the report claimed that the BFAR has issued an administrative order prohibiting the capture, purchase, sale, cooking and eating of Ludong during its seasonal migration from October to January, and banning the use of nets and other devices and allowing only fish rods and bait;

WHEREAS, it was reported that according to Abra Governor Bersamin, the BFAR should launch an information campaign regarding the rules that they will implement on the catching of Ludong, especially during the closed season;

WHEREAS, Bersamin further explained that people must learn to value the importance of the regulations, which were imposed to preserve endangered species;

WHEREAS, the government should allocate funds to conduct further research on the characteristics of Ludong to prevent the extinction of their species;

WHEREAS, there is a pressing need to strengthen the implementation of laws concerning Ludong harvesting in the Philippines;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported need to prevent the extinction of Ludong in the Philippines.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
jr

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