

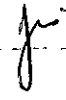
SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

14 AUG 19 P3:09

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 846

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT SACKS OF SEASHELLS OF ENDANGERED
SPECIES WERE SEIZED IN ZAMBOANGA

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 convention, protection of wildlife and their habitat;

WHEREAS, inquirer.net, in an article posted on 12 August 2014, reported that a total of 104 jute sacks containing seashells of endangered species were seized by Navy officers in a boat found in the waters between Zamboanga city and Basilan province;

WHEREAS, Pedling Munap, chief of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Zamboanga, reportedly said that the contraband included king helmet shells (*Cassis tuberosa*) and horned helmet shells (*Cassis cornuta*);

WHEREAS, Munap also reportedly said that the sacks, weighing 30 kilograms each, were found in a "jungkong," a motorized boat without an outrigger, which was believed to have come from Tawi-Tawi province;

WHEREAS, Munap allegedly said that he suspected the jungkong cargo was to be transferred to a bigger vessel here and brought to Manila, Cebu or Iloilo, where these shells fetch high prices, in which each shell could fetch as much as P250;

WHEREAS, Munap also allegedly said that the operator of the jungkong would be charged with illegal transport of endangered marine animals;

WHEREAS, the report said that the trade in banned marine species is widespread in Western Mindanao;

WHEREAS, the report also said that in June, a man selling endangered marine species on the Internet was arrested in Pagadian City after a search on his house yielded more than 300

endangered marine and wildlife products and the suspect, Earl Frederick Galupo, is believed to be part of a bigger network of poachers;

WHEREAS, the report claimed that authorities discovered Galupo's illegal activity after he posted pictures of his products on the Internet;

WHEREAS, the report also claimed that in July last year, authorities also made several arrests and seized dozens of turtles in Tawi-Tawi;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the biggest raids so far were those carried out in this city between 2005 and 2007, where tons of corals and other marine species were seized from several Filipino-Chinese businessmen;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that among those charged were Joe Pring and Vicente Wee Sr., whose warehouses were raided in 2005 and 2007, respectively;

WHEREAS, Congress should look into the perpetuation of this illegal activity despite the implementation of various laws protecting endangered species in the country;

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 report that sacks of seashells of endangered species were seized in Zamboanga.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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