

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. 851

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT THE COUNTRY IS ON HIGH ALERT  
AGAINST SMUGGLED WILD ANIMALS COMING INTO THE COUNTRY FROM  
AFRICA IN LIGHT OF THE DEADLY EBOLA VIRUS OUTBREAK IN PARTS OF WEST  
AFRICA

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

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, [journal.com.ph](http://journal.com.ph), in a news article posted on 7 August 2014, reported that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other concerned agencies have been put on high alert against smuggled wild animals coming into the country from Africa in light of the deadly Ebola outbreak in parts of West Africa;

WHEREAS, Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Ramon Paje has reportedly directed the personnel of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) assigned in seaports and airports nationwide not to lower their guard and keep a tight watch on all wild and exotic pets particularly in the Ebola-hit countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia;

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization reportedly declared the West African Ebola epidemic that has killed nearly 1,000 people an international public-health emergency;

WHEREAS, the Ebola virus is a zoonotic disease transmitted to humans by direct contact with infected live or dead animals, and more specifically with their body fluids;

WHEREAS, according to the report, the infection has been documented in Africa through the handling of infected chimpanzees, gorillas, fruit bats, monkeys, forest antelope, and porcupines found ill or dead in the rainforest;

WHEREAS, according to Paje, the DENR had stopped issuing permits for wild animals imported from Africa as early as 2006 due to the Ebola virus threat, so any shipment coming from any part of Africa is outright illegal;

WHEREAS, Paje reportedly warned that these animals can be carriers of zoonotic diseases or contagious diseases that spread between animals and humans;

WHEREAS, there is a need for the government to give its all-out support to the efforts of the DENR and other concerned government agencies in implementing the close monitoring of country's airports and seaports to strictly check all kinds of imported animals, especially those coming from the Ebola-stricken countries;

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 the country is on high alert against smuggled wild animals coming into the country from Africa in light of the deadly Ebola virus outbreak in parts of West Africa.

Adopted,

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

*ad.*

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