

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

Office of the Secretary

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1167

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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 REPORTED MARINE POACHING ACTIVITY IN CAVITE

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 Bulletin*, on 31 January 2015 reported that some fishermen in Cavite are hunting dolphins and whale sharks (locally known as *butanding*) and selling meat from their catch;

WHEREAS, earlier in January, a dying female dwarf spinner dolphin, was found with several wounds on her body by a fisherman on the shore of Barangay Wawa II in Rosario town;

WHEREAS, there has allegedly been an increasing number of dolphins and whale sharks found dead in the coastal waters of neighboring Cavite towns of Tanza, Rosario, and Ternate in the last few years;

WHEREAS, local officials claimed that the carcasses, particularly those with wounds, were victims of poachers patrolling the high seas, who hunt endangered animals either for slaughtering or for sale in marine amusement parks abroad;

WHEREAS, a full-grown dolphin could reportedly cost thousands of dollars and a trained one could sell much higher in some countries;

WHEREAS, the government should protect the country's marine biodiversity, which provide livelihood through fishing and other related industries, as well as tourism;

WHEREAS, Congress, in coordination with relevant agencies, must ensure that existing legislation concerning marine life are practicable for implementation by local government units;

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 marine poaching activity in Cavite.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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