

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



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1199

RECEIVED BY: *JS*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED FISH KILL IN MANILA BAY

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 also provides in Article 2, Section 16: "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, various media sources on 17 February 2015 reported that fish kill was discovered near the breakwater of Manila Bay on 16 February;

WHEREAS, the news quoted the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) as saying that oxygen depletion in the waters near the Manila Yacht Club may have resulted in the death of dozens mullet fish, which were found floating in the area;

WHEREAS, dissolved oxygen levels from three sampling stations were reportedly at 1.2 units, way below the normal oxygen level of 5.0 units needed to sustain marine life;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Coast Guard reportedly said its initial investigation suggested that the fish kill was caused by poor water quality in the Manila Yacht Club breakwater due to stagnation;

WHEREAS, the agency also claimed that there had been no chemical or oil spills in the area that could have caused the fish kill;

WHEREAS, the government should protect the quality of marine life, especially those harnessed as food source;

WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, should ensure that the level of cleanliness and safety of Philippine waters are constantly monitored by relevant agencies;

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 fish kill in Manila Bay.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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