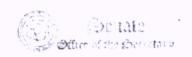
## EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

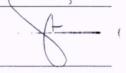
First Regular Session



SENATE P. S. Res No. <u>295</u>

20 JAN 22 73-29

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay



## RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE STATUS OF THE ANIMALS LEFT BEHIND DURING THE TAAL ERUPTION, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROVIDING FOR THEIR INCLUSION IN EVACUATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PLANS

WHEREAS, Section 1 of Republic Act Act 8485 as amended by RA 10631, otherwise known as "The Animal Welfare Act of 1998", provides it is the purpose of this Act to protect and promote the welfare of the terrestrial, aquatic and marine animals in the Philippines by supervising and regulating the establishment and operations of all facilities utilized for breeding, maintaining, keeping, treating or training of all animals either as objects of trade or as household pets. For this purpose of this Act, pet animal shall include birds.

For the purpose of this Act, animal welfare pertains to the physical and psychological well-being of animals. It includes, but not limited to, the avoidance of abuse, maltreatment, cruelty and exploitation of animals by humans by maintaining appropriate standards of accommodation, feeding and general care, the prevention and treatment of disease and the assurance of freedom from fear, distress, harassment, and unnecessary discomfort and pain, and allowing animals to express normal behavior;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) director Renato Solidum said the Taal Volcano in Batangas spewed ashes in phreatic eruption on January 12, 2020 due to hydro-thermal activities at around 11:00 a.m. and after three hours, a strong explosion was recorded around

2:00 p.m. and the volcano spewed a kilometer-tall of ash column. Furthermore, three earthquakes were felt around 07:35 a.m., 10:43 a.m., and 14:00 p.m.;

WHEREAS, PHILVOCS reminded the public that the main crater should be strictly off-limits because sudden steam explosions can occur and high concentrations of lethal volcanic gases can be released. The entire Volcano Island is a Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ), and permanent settlement in the island is strongly not recommended;

WHEREAS, According to ABS-CBN, some 18,000 residents have been evacuated from the ongoing volcanic activity of Taal volcano, many animals were left behind by their owners who fled their areas amid the dangers of the eminent eruption;

WHEREAS, an article from the Manila Standard, dated January 19, 2020, reported that animal welfare groups have bonded together to rescue all animals from towns in Batangas identified by the government as danger zones. They were given 72 hours starting January 16 to rescue all the trapped animals;

WHEREAS, among the animal welfare groups authorized to conduct rescue work are Animal Kingdom Foundation (AKF), CARA, Pag-Amuna, Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), Save Animals of Love and Light (Save ALL) and Whelps;

WHEREAS, among the towns where animal rescuers are conducting rescues are Agoncillo, Alitagtag, Balete, Cuenca, Laurel, Lemery, Malvar, Mataas na Kahoy, San Nicolas, Sta. Teresita, Taal and Talisay;

WHEREAS, animal welfare groups have been on the ground helping bring animals, including livestock, to safety.

WHEREAS, aside from horses, cows and other livestock, some 30,000 dogs and cats in these towns have been affected by the eruption of Taal Volcano;

WHEREAS, a Senate inquiry on the matter is necessary in order to include the animals in evacuation and disaster risk reduction plans for future natural calamities therefore ensuring their safety and welfare;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the proper Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the status of the animals left behind during the Taal eruption, with the end in view of providing for their inclusion in evacuation and disaster risk reduction plans.

Adopted,

MARIA LOURDES NAMEY S. BINAY

Senator