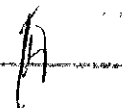


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

8 JUL 29 12:10

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 532

RECEIVED BY: _____



Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STRICTER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
WILDLIFE ACT TO PREVENT THE EXTINCTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

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 9147 also known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, Section 2 (a) states, "It shall be the policy of the State to conserve the country's wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainability. In the pursuit of this policy, this Act shall have the following objectives: to conserve and protect wildlife species and their habitats to promote ecological balance and enhance biological diversity x x x";

WHEREAS, based on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) records, the Philippines is the sole host to 1,137 animal species and 14,000 species of plants; the country is also one of the top biodiversity hot spots, with 592 endemic species of amphibians, birds and mammals considered "threatened or endangered";

WHEREAS, we rank fifth in the number of plant species worldwide; we also rank fourth in bird endemism, which means that these birds are found only in the country;

WHEREAS, DENR Secretary Lito Atienza issued a warning that more than half the birds, amphibians and mammals found only in the Philippines are either threatened or nearly extinct";

WHEREAS, in addition 227 endemic species of flowering plants are listed in the "Red List" of "critically endangered" species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature;

WHEREAS, the DENR's own "Red List" of threatened, endangered or vulnerable fauna includes 215 species of birds, 96 mammals, and five reptiles;

WHEREAS, the most famous Philippine fauna in the IUCN Red List are the tamaraw, a dwarf buffalo found only on the central island of Mindoro, and the Philippine eagle, one of the largest in the world and found only in Mindanao island;

WHEREAS, despite the stringent efforts to conserve the country's wildlife, there are still instances when these endangered animals are hunted; the Mindanao police were able to arrest a farmer who shot and ate a Philippine eagle that had been released from a raptor conservation project just four months earlier;

WHEREAS, the giant bird, one of only 250 estimated to be still alive, had been shot and wounded in 2006 but was nursed back to health by eagle conservationists and released back into the wild earlier this year;

WHEREAS, locals should be educated on recognizing wildlife and the importance of preserving them;

WHEREAS, the government should create programs that will see to the effective implementation of the Wildlife Act, such as by creating stricter penalties or publishing the names of those who violated the Act in the area where such was violated;

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 stricter implementation of the Wildlife Act to prevent the extinction of endangered species.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/dpm