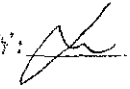


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

11 JUL -5 P3:28

SENATE
P.S. RES. NO. 525

APPROVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manny B. Villar

RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO ASSESS THE CURRENT MEASURES EMPLOYED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT THE BIODIVERSITY IN THE COUNTRY WITH THE END IN VIEW OF SAFEGUARDING SPECIES UNIQUELY ENDEMIC IN THE COUNTRY.

Whereas, the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that "[t]he 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 Philippine legislature has enacted Republic 9147 otherwise known as the Wildlife Act to conserve and protect our wildlife;

Whereas, the Philippines is endowed with rich flora and fauna species endemic only in the country;

Whereas, scientists believe ninety percent (90%) of the species on planet earth have not yet been discovered by humans;

Whereas, Dr. Terrence Gosliner, Dean of Science and Research Collections at the California Academy of Sciences (CAS) and leader of the 2011 Philippine Biodiversity Expedition, said that the Philippines is one of the hottest of the hotspots for diverse and threatened life on Earth;"

Whereas, CAS researchers have long been making trips to the Philippines — since 1992 — still they keep on discovering new creatures, thus scientists believe that they are nowhere close to the end of their discoveries;

Whereas, Scott Steppan, co-author and head of the laboratory at Florida State University where the DNA portion of the study was conducted, even stated that "[t]he Philippines is an ideal place to study the evolution of animal diversity, even better than the famous Galapagos Islands and even added that "[t]hese animals have been evolving in the Philippine archipelago for millions of years";

Whereas, despite this designation, however, the biodiversity in the Philippines is still relatively unknown;

Whereas, many of these hotspot areas for biodiversity in the country are facing habitat loss and degradation, thus putting undiscovered species in danger of being wiped out;

Whereas, according to the CAS, "climate change, increased fishing pressure, increased urbanization, and increased logging" have made the areas involved in the expedition threatened hot spots, heightening the need to explore the area at the soonest possible time;

Whereas, in fact, Romeo Trono, Country Executive Director for Conservation International - Philippines, said, "[p]rotecting land and marine resources is key to maintaining healthy ecosystems which deliver ecosystem services such as food, clean water, health, tourism and cultural benefits and

stable climate which are vital to the very survival of every Filipino. Although small in size, these little animals are part of our biodiversity which forms the basic foundation of healthy ecosystems."

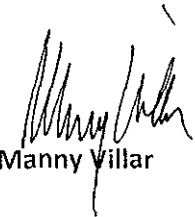
Whereas, Josefa Veluz, biologist at the Philippine National Museum and co-author of the study, pointed out that only a few of the new species (those from the Sierra Madre and Mt. Banahaw regions) live within protected areas while the others do not, and are threatened by logging, expansion of agriculture and mining activities;

Whereas, considering the risk to these species uniquely endemic to the country that were found and are yet to be found, it is incumbent upon the government to protect them and ensure that they will still exist for our future patrimony;

Whereas, further all species, big or small, are important in our ecosystem and massive endangerment thereof can lead to dire consequences;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to urge the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, to assess the current measures employed by the government to protect the biodiversity in the country with the end in view of safeguarding species uniquely endemic in the country.

Adopted.



Manny Villar