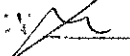


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SENATE

RECEIVED BY 

P.S. Resolution No. 538

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND COMMERCE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED MASSIVE TRADING OF GECKOS, LOCALLY KNOWN AS "TUKO", AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF CRAFTING MEASURES IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE SPECIES FROM THREATS, ENSURE THEIR SURVIVAL AND MAINTAIN THE UNIQUE BALANCE OF OUR ECOSYSTEM

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines provides that:

"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 No. 9147 otherwise known as the "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act declares it 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:

(a) to conserve and protect wildlife species and their habitats to promote ecological balance and enhance biological diversity;

(b) to regulate the collection and trade of wildlife;

(c) to pursue, with due regard to the national interest, the Philippine commitment to international conventions, protection of wildlife and their habitats; and

(d) to initiate or support scientific studies on the conservation of biological diversity.";

WHEREAS, Geckos, locally known as “tuko” are commonly found in households and their surrounding areas, it controls the population of insects such as mosquitoes by feeding on them;

WHEREAS, recent reports state the rise in hunting and selling of these reptiles due to their high cost in the international wildlife market with prices ranging from fifty thousand pesos to half a million pesos;¹

WHEREAS, majority of the trading are done online through networking sites and other internet based marketing network where a sale is made to the highest bidder;

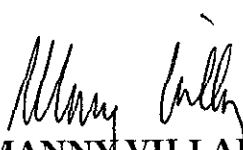
WHEREAS, much of the interest in these reptiles is generated by a claim that geckos can cure cancer, asthma, tuberculosis, impotence and even Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS);

WHEREAS, although the *tuko* is not classified as either critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable, it is now under threat from over-collection which can ultimately lead to vulnerability or extinction;

WHEREAS, government must act in order to save the species from threats because existing wildlife plays a role in the balance of nature; hence, the indiscriminate breeding and selling of geckos will wreak havoc on the ecosystem;²

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to direct the Senate Committee on Trade and Commerce to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported massive trading of geckos, locally known as “tuko”, and for the purpose of crafting measures in order to protect the species from threats, ensure their survival and maintain the unique balance of our ecosystem.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR

¹ As cited in <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/davao/local-news/2011/05/05/tuko-trade-illegal-environment-office-153624> July 26, 2011 10:00 AM

² As cited in <http://ph.news.yahoo.com/tuko-trading-thrive-online-amid-govt-warning-142705948.html> July 26, 2011 10:25 AM