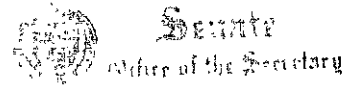



FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session



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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 577

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, *IN AID OF LEGISLATION*, ON THE REPORTED SMUGGLING OF ENDANGERED ANIMALS IN THE GREATER MANILA AREA WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROTECTING OUR WILDLIFE AND PUT AN END TO THE ILLEGAL TRADE OF PHILIPPINE ENDANGERED SPECIES.

WHEREAS, Section 2 (a) of Republic Act 9147 also known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act 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, only recently a number of endangered animal species such as talking myna birds, serpent eagle and Asian box turtles were seized from illegal traders in the capital city of Manila;

WHEREAS, according to the apprehended traders, the seized endangered animals were from Palawan and Bicol and were supposed to be brought to Aranque Market in Manila where they will be sold;

WHEREAS, in a separate raid conducted by operatives of the Pasay City government in Cartimar Market last June 2011, several threatened and endangered animals including Mindoro Bleeding-heart pigeons, reptiles like snakes and sea turtles, and tarantulas were confiscated from pet shops;

WHEREAS, the Aranque Market in Manila and the Cartimar Market in Pasay City are known as pet lovers' haven and emporiums of exotic animals where illegal wildlife trade is prevalent;

WHEREAS, illegal wildlife trade is among the world's largest illegal trade, next to guns and drugs, and a big chunk of the global illegal wildlife trade takes place here in Asia with emphasis on Southeast Asia as having an increasing demand for illegal wildlife and it being the key supplier of wildlife products to the world;

WHEREAS, despite efforts made by the authorities to apprehend illegal traders of threatened and endangered wildlife, the fact remains that illegal trading of endangered animals occur even in the most conspicuous places like the Aranque and Cartimar markets;

WHEREAS, there is a need to educate locals especially in places where threatened and endangered wildlife are endemic on the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act as many of our people are ignorant of the law;

WHEREAS, there is a need to investigate this matter in order to institute further legislative measures that will effectively implement the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act and address this recurring issue;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to direct the appropriate committees in the Senate to conduct an inquiry, in Aid of Legislation, on the reported smuggling of endangered animals in the Greater Manila Area with the end in view of protecting our wildlife and put an end to the illegal trade of Philippine endangered species.

Adopted,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator