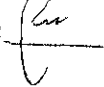


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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P.S. Resolution No. 469

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT A STUDY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATE OF PHILIPPINE MARINE RESOURCES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE TRAINING AND TECHNOLOGY TO FISHERFOLKS AND THE ADOPTION OF ENVIRONMENT FOCUSED "GREEN" POLICY ON MARINE UTILIZATION

Whereas, Sec. 7, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution provides that:

"The State shall protect the rights of subsistence fishermen, especially of local communities, to the preferential use of the communal marine and fishing resources, both inland and offshore. It shall provide support to such fishermen through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial, production, and marketing assistance, and other services. The State shall also protect, develop, and conserve such resources. The protection shall extend to offshore fishing grounds of subsistence fishermen against foreign intrusion. Fishworkers shall receive a just share from their labor in the utilization of marine and fishing resources.";

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, majority of the Philippine population lives in towns and cities that are located along the coast and the attraction to move to coastlines is increasing as a result of major economic developments happening along coastal areas;

Whereas, along the coast are found mangroves and coral reefs that are economically important coastal marine resources providing food and livelihood to the people who depend on it;

Whereas, the lack of sewerage and facilities for treating liquid waste material have resulted in wastewater being released in rivers and other waterways that end up polluting the seas contributing to the demise of marine ecosystems;

Whereas, in the latest data of Reef Check, the world's largest reef conservation organization, only less than five percent of the country's estimated 27,000 square-kilometers of coral reef are considered in "excellent condition"¹;

Whereas, another threat is the continues use of destructive fishing methods which results in the loss of reef fish, reduction of species diversity and the alteration in the size and growth of marine species²;


Whereas, there must be a shift to promote practices that have smaller impact on marine eco-systems such as regulations on fishing methods and the introduction of zones intended to protect marine ecosystems;

Whereas, a part of this is the proper education and training of our fisherfolks which shall include the introduction of new techniques, equipment and technology in fishing so that they may be directly involved in the preservation of their primary economic resource;

Whereas, measures must be adopted to effectively govern access to fishing zones and resources, promote the sustainable pursuit of fishing activities as well as the establishment of mechanisms to prevent pollution along coastal areas.

NOW, WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to direct the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and other appropriate senate committees to conduct a study, in aid of legislation, on the state of Philippine marine resources with the end in view of providing adequate training and technology to fisherfolks and the adoption of an environment focused "green" policy on marine utilization.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR

¹ As cited in ¹ http://www.palawan.com/articles.php?article_id=94 Dec. 13, 2010 10:40 AM

² As cited in

http://www.eoearth.org/article/Coral_degradation_through_destructive_fishing_practices?topic=49513
May 10, 2011 11:00 AM