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SENATE

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P.S. Resolution No. 694

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE REPORTED DECLINE IN CONDITION OF PHILIPPINE CORAL REEFS FOR THE PURPOSE OF HALTING THEIR CONTINUING DETERIORATION AND PROVIDE A ROADMAP TO THEIR REHABILITATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

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, the World Resource Institute released a study naming the Philippines as one of the nine countries in the world with high to very high exposure to coral reef threats, but low to medium adaptive capacity;¹

Whereas, in a report published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau director Mundita Lim said Philippines’ corals encompass 26,000 square kilometers but only four percent of that area is “in excellent condition.”;²

Whereas, this means that the coral reefs of the country which provides habitat to 500 of the 800 coral species in the world are now at risk because of over-exploitation, illegal fishing practices, coastal pollution, and rising ocean temperature;

Whereas, coral reefs are considered underwater forests because of their complex ecosystem that supports a huge amount of wildlife, thus, it is vital that we reverse the degradation of our coral reefs to improve food and livelihood security of our people;

¹ <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/134917/only-4-of-philippine-coral-reefs-are-still-pristine> January 31, 2012

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² ibid

Whereas, considering the other threats to our reef system such as coral bleaching, climate change and over population, the government must act in order to save the remaining pristine marine sanctuaries and halt the deterioration of other coral reef formations.

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 to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the reported decline in condition of Philippine coral reefs for the purpose of halting their continuing deterioration and provide a roadmap to their rehabilitation and sustainable management

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR