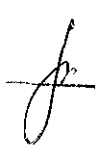


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

Senate
Department of Agriculture

12 OCT 21 1976

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 884



Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NEED TO TRANSFER MALI, THE ONLY
FEMALE ELEPHANT IN MANILA ZOO, TO A SANCTUARY IN THAILAND DUE TO
THE ANIMAL'S FRAIL HEALTH

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8485, also known as the Animal Welfare Act, Section 6, states: "It shall be unlawful for any person ... to neglect to provide adequate care, sustenance or shelter, or maltreat any animal or to subject any dog or horse to dogfights or horsefights, kill or cause or procure to be tortured or deprived of adequate care, sustenance or shelter, or maltreat or use the same in research or experiments not expressly authorized by the Committee on Animal Welfare";

WHEREAS, various media reported that according to the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), Mali, the only female elephant staying in Manila Zoo, has developed health problems due to her 35 year-stay in the zoo without receiving proper care and attention;

WHEREAS, according to PETA, keeping a solitary female elephant is extremely detrimental to her mental health and well-being, and that just because Mali has spent most of her life at the zoo is no justification to keep her there until she dies;

WHEREAS, Dr. Henry Melvyn Richardson, a well-renowned elephant veterinarian, reportedly expressed concern over Mali's health and living conditions claiming that Mali suffers from fatal foot problems, including chronic pressure sores on her feet, which are open to contamination; days' worth of accumulated feces and urine in her sleeping quarters; and cracked nails and pads and overgrown cuticles, all of which can harbor bacteria and become infected;

WHEREAS, Dr. Richardson claimed that infection is the leading cause of death among captive elephants;

WHEREAS, according to world known animal authority Dr. Jane Goodall, "the Manila Zoo has failed Mali; not only is she suffering from isolation and captivity-induced foot problems; she [also] has not even had basic blood work conducted in the three and a half decades that she has been in the zoo";

WHEREAS, according to PETA, the organization has already secured a home for Mali in a sanctuary in Thailand and has elephant experts ready to care for Mali in her new home; reports also claimed that elephants, who have long been held in captivity, thrived once they are moved to sanctuaries;

WHEREAS, PETA gave its assurance that the transfer will not cost taxpayers a single centavo as all costs will be shouldered by the organization;

WHEREAS, reports alleged that Malacañang has instructed the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) to evaluate the condition of Mali and determine if it would be advisable to transfer her to a sanctuary;


WHEREAS, despite this, the BAI has yet to issue a report on Mali's condition;

WHEREAS, given Mali's old age, the BAI and other pertinent government offices should act swiftly in addressing Mali's welfare;

WHEREAS, Mali's retirement and transfer will benefit not just Mali, but also the city of Manila; the government will garner international goodwill and media coverage, and will be seen as a leader on animal welfare issues;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, directing the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported need to transfer Mali, the only female elephant in Manila Zoo, to a sanctuary in Thailand due to the animal's frail health

Adopted,

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MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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