

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

12 FEB -6 AM 11

**SENATE**

P. S. Res. No. 12

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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**RESOLUTION  
CALLING FOR THE MANILA ZOO ADMINISTRATION TO EFFECT THE IMMEDIATE  
TRANSFER OF ITS LONE ELEPHANT TO A PROPER SANCTUARY**

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 8485, also known as the "Animal Welfare Act of 1998" declares that it shall be unlawful for any person to neglect to provide adequate care, sustenance or shelter, or maltreat any animal;

**WHEREAS**, the elephant, Vishwamali, more commonly known as Mali, has been held in captivity in the Philippines, more specifically within the premises of Manila Zoo, for over thirty years and remains the only elephant in captivity within the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, elephants deserve to roam freely and interact with its species in a natural habitat of an area with dense foliage ranging from 25,000 to 60,000 hectares of area of 5.5 hectares;

**WHEREAS**, Mali is kept in a concrete and metal structure without plants or trees with an area less than 25,000 hectares as it forms only a part of the Manila Zoo's total area of 5.5 hectares;

**WHEREAS**, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) reported that due to Mali's living conditions, she is suffering physical, psychological, and emotional harm, specifically caused by her cramped and unsuitable living facilities, inadequate medical care, and complete lack of social interaction with her own species;

**WHEREAS**, several experts, have diagnosed Mali with arthritis, foot sores, and other captivity-induced foot problems – the treatment of which her present custodians are not trained or equipped to administer;

**WHEREAS**, Mali has not been receiving regular check-ups or blood work during the period that she has been living under the care of the Manila Zoo Administration;

**WHEREAS**, there is no elephant expert in the Philippines trained for the treatment of Mali's wounds or to look after her overall health, nor is there an adequate sanctuary to provide Mali with living conditions that would approximate her natural habitat;


**WHEREAS**, PETA has identified and coordinated with an elephant sanctuary in Thailand capable and willing to receive Mali for rehabilitation, administration of treatments, and integration with other elephants;

**WHEREAS**, PETA has made a public pronouncement that it will shoulder any cost that may be incurred for Mali's transfer;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to immediately transport Mali to an elephant sanctuary to spare her from the detrimental effects of her present circumstances and afford her the proper environment and natural habitat;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved to call upon the Manila Zoo Administration to effect the immediate transfer of its lone elephant to a proper sanctuary.

**Adopted,**

  
MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID.  
Senator