



SENATE
P. S. Res No. 961

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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

REC.

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ONLINE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE
TRADE IN THE PHILIPPINES

1 WHEREAS, buying and selling of wild-caught or harvested plant and animals
2 remain a problem in the Philippines despite the all-out war against illegal wildlife
3 trade¹;

4 WHEREAS, like in other countries, illegal wildlife trade in the Philippines is
5 evolving along with the technological evolution that led to the development of high-
6 tech gadgets that can access the Internet²;

7 WHEREAS, aided by advanced technology—smartphones, Internet technology
8 and the ever-growing popularity of social media, illegal wildlife trade on the Internet
9 is fast becoming the new trend³;

10 WHEREAS, the buying and selling of wild-caught or harvested plants and
11 animals has become an even more lucrative trade, with the easy access to a bigger
12 market and extended reach through the Internet⁴;

13 WHEREAS, this is despite of strong environmental laws, particularly Republic
14 Act (RA) 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001;

¹ Business Mirror News Website, Online illegal wildlife trade: Species extinction at Internet speed, <https://businessmirror.com.ph/online-illegal-wildlife-trade-species-extinction-at-internet-speed/>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

15 and RA 7586, or the National Integrated Protected Act System (Nipas) Act of 1992
16 as amended by RA 11038, or the Expanded Nipas Act of 2018 in the Philippines⁵;

17 WHEREAS, according to the DENR-BMB brochure titled "Addressing the Illegal
18 Wildlife Trade in the Philippines," between 1996 and 2009 , the most traded species
19 in the Philippines namely Philippine forest turtles, Palawan pangolin, Hawksbill turtle,
20 Blue-naped parrot, Southeast Asian box turtle, Hill mynah, Asian leaf turtle and
21 Tockay gecko⁶;

22 WHEREAS, based on confiscation data, major poaching sites in the Philippines
23 are Coron, El Nido, Taytay, Narra, Quezon, Rizal, Half Moon Shoal, Balabac Major
24 Turtle Islands, Mapun, Agusan del Norte, Bukidnon, Aurora, Samar, Leyte and
25 Bohol⁷;

26 WHEREAS, according to Department of Environment and Natural Resources,
27 Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, some buyers and sellers are cunningly using
28 Facebook to hide their identities to avoid law enforcement in doing their illegal
29 transaction⁸;

30 WHEREAS, stricter policies and regulations in trading wildlife as well as in
31 issuing permits to sell must be implemented; moreover, social media and online
32 selling portals must be utilized in identifying illegal traders of endangered species;

33 BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the proper Senate
34 committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the online illegal wildlife
35 trade in the Philippines.

Adopted,


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Business Mirror News Website, Online illegal wildlife trade: Species extinction at Internet speed, <https://businessmirror.com.ph/online-illegal-wildlife-trade-species-extinction-at-internet-speed/>

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.