## SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC ) OF THE PHILIPPINES )

Third Regular Session

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## SENATE P.S.ResNo. 961

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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

## 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 trade<sup>1</sup>;

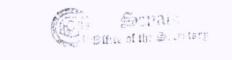
WHEREAS, like in other countries, illegal wildlife trade in the Philippines is evolving along with the technological evolution that led to the development of hightech gadgets that can access the Internet<sup>2</sup>;

WHEREAS, aided by advanced technology—smartphones, Internet technology and the ever-growing popularity of social media, illegal wildlife trade on the Internet is fast becoming the new trend<sup>3</sup>;

WHEREAS, the buying and selling of wild-caught or harvested plants and animals has become an even more lucrative trade, with the easy access to a bigger market and extended reach through the Internet<sup>4</sup>;

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

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ibid.

and RA 7586, or the National Integrated Protected Act System (Nipas) Act of 1992
as amended by RA 11038, or the Expanded Nipas Act of 2018 in the Philippines<sup>5</sup>;

WHEREAS, according to the DENR-BMB brochure titled "Addressing the Illegal Wildlife Trade in the Philippines," between 1996 and 2009, the most traded species in the Philippines namely Philippine forest turtles, Palawan pangolin, Hawksbill turtle, Blue-naped parrot, Southeast Asian box turtle, Hill mynah, Asian leaf turtle and Tockay gecko<sup>6</sup>;

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 Bohol<sup>7</sup>;

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 transaction<sup>8</sup>;

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

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

Adopted,

S NÁNCY S. BINAY MARIA LOUR Senator

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 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/ <sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> TL L

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Ibid.