

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

24 DEC 10 P 6:10

SENATE

RECORDED

P.S. RES. NO. 1257

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Introduced by Senator **PIA S. CAYETANO**

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**RESOLUTION**

**CONDEMNING THE ILLEGAL HUNTING OF PHILIPPINE DUCKS, LOCALLY KNOWN AS *DUMARA*, IN THE CANDABA SWAMP AND DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MATTER**

**WHEREAS**, Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that, "[t]he State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

**WHEREAS**, Section 27 of Republic Act No. 9147, or the "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act", provides that it shall be unlawful for any person to willfully and knowingly exploit wildlife resources and their habitats, or undertake killing and destroying wildlife species;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines, as a party to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, remains committed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 15: Life on Land which aims to to prevent the extinction of threatened species;

**WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Candaba issued Resolution No. 51 series of 2004 declaring the 32,000-hectare Candaba Swamp a bird sanctuary for the protection and conservation of these declining bird species from illegal hunting;<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Orejas, T. (2013). *Candaba wild birds hunted despite ban*  
<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/440361/candaba-wild-birds-hunted-despite-ban>

**WHEREAS**, the Candaba Swamp is a popular destination for birdwatching and home to the endemic Philippine duck (*Anas luzonica*) locally known as *Dumara*, as well as migratory birds seeking winter refuge, feeding grounds, and breeding areas from October to March from regions such as Siberia, Japan, China, and New Zealand;<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the Asian Waterbird Census recorded a total of 13,160 migratory birds in the Candaba Swamp in 2010, but decreased to almost half at 6,467 birds in 2017;<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, there were recent reports of game hunters who targeted these ducks and uploaded videos on social media, causing public outrage and urgent calls for the protection of these wildlife species;<sup>4</sup>

**WHEREAS**, in relation to the incident, former Candaba Mayor Jerry Pelayo, sought assistance from the National Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to investigate the more than 12 video uploads on Youtube showing the illegal hunting of the *Dumara*;<sup>5</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the *Dumara* is listed as vulnerable on the Red List of Threatened Species of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, just one category away from being classified as endangered;<sup>6</sup>

**WHEREAS**, there is a waning number of the *Dumara* population attributed to high levels of illegal hunting and widespread conversion of its wetland habitats;

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<sup>2</sup> Philippine Daily Inquirer (2021). *Candaba Swamp under close watch for illegal hunting of migratory birds*. <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1513212/candaba-swamp-under-close-watch-for-illegal-hunting-of-migratory-birds#ixzz8stFZJTg>

<sup>3</sup> Orejas, T. (2018). *Fewer migratory birds seen at Candaba Swamp this year*. <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/960593/fewer-migratory-birds-seen-at-candaba-swamp-this-year>

<sup>4</sup> Colalo, A. (2024). *4 game hunters face charges*. <https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/12/07/regions/4-game-hunters-face-charges/2017444>

<sup>5</sup> Rappler (2024). *Ex. Pampanga mayor to sue Youtubers who killed wild ducks for content*. <https://www.rappler.com/philippines/ex-pampanga-mayor-pelayo-sue-youtube-vloggers-killed-wild-ducks-content/>

<sup>6</sup> IUCN Red List (2016). *Philippine Duck Anas luzonica* <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/22680214/92849560>

**WHEREAS**, the recent incident of the illegal hunting of the *Dumara* in the Candaba Swamp for social media content and entertainment purposes poses a significant threat to the biodiversity of the Philippines and demonstrates a blatant disregard of the law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Senate of the Philippines condemns the illegal hunting of Philippine Ducks, locally known as *Dumara*, in the Candaba Swamp, and directing the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the matter.

*Adopted,*

*Pia S. Cayetano MS*  
PIA S. CAYTANO