

Republic of the Philippines  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
PALAWAN COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Excerpts from the Minutes of the 40th Council Meeting of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development held at Training Rm 2, Innotech Bldg., Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City on 27 October 1995.

Present:

Gov. Salvador P. Socrates	-	Chairman
Cong. Alfredo E. Abueg, Jr.	-	Vice-Chairman
Exec. Dir. Arthur R. Ventura	-	Secretary
Cong. Vicente A. Sandoval	-	Member
DDG. Aniceto M. Sobrepena	-	Member
Mayor Alberto G. Enriquez, Jr.	-	Member
Rev. Fr. Armando R. Limsa	-	Member
Mr. Vic O. Milan	-	Member
Vice-Gov. Joel T. Reyes	-	Member
Maj. Gen. Carlos F. Tanega	-	Member

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PCSD RESOLUTION NO. 95-89

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO  
FORMULATE AND ISSUE THE APPROPRIATE INSTRUMENT  
TO BAN COMPLETELY LIVE FISH TRADING IN PALAWAN**

WHEREAS, R. A. 7611 hereby declared the policy of the State to protect, develop and conserve its natural resources;

WHEREAS, the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) was created in accordance with Section 16 of R. A. 7611 to effectively and efficiently govern, implement and formulate policies for the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for the Sustainable development of Palawan;

WHEREAS, the Undersecretary of the Department of Agriculture is an organic member of the PCSD to abet the Council in the performance of its functions;

WHEREAS, the PCSD on its 40th Regular Meeting accordingly acted on the documented reports furnished by the International Marine Alliance (IMA) regarding illegal fishing activities in Cuyo, Magsayasay and Agutaya and other parts of Palawan;

WHEREAS, on the same report, certain personalities are involved in the sale and distribution of cyanide being used in illegal fishing in Palawan;

WHEREAS, on the same reports, the alleged sources of cyanide are Manila and neighboring countries with transshipment points in Southern Palawan for use in the islands of Balabac, Bataraza, and the nearby municipalities. In the North, the transshipment areas are the municipalities of Aracelli, Dumarán, Roxas and Taytay;

WHEREAS, live fish trading is a very lucrative business, utilizing vessels with aquarium facilities and providing financing to local fishermen to catch live fish using cyanide;

WHEREAS, foreign nationals are actively fishing using cyanide and blasting methods in the Kalayaan group of islands and other parts of Philippine waters;

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WHEREAS, other foreign nationals are actively fishing using cyanide and blasting methods in the Kalayaan group of islands and other parts of the Philippine waters;

WHEREAS, the use of cyanide and other noxious substances in illegal fishing destroys the marine eco-system thereby depleting our marine resources;

WHEREAS, scientists forewarned that next to water, the crisis will be on fishery if illegal fishing is not abated;

WHEREAS, the ban on trading of live fish has to be comprehensive to encompass the whole country;

WHEREAS, the 10th Congress of the Republic of the Philippines has filed House Bill No. 3198, specifically the proposed Fisheries Code of 1995;

NOW THEREFORE, upon unanimous motion duly seconded by the members of the Council present;

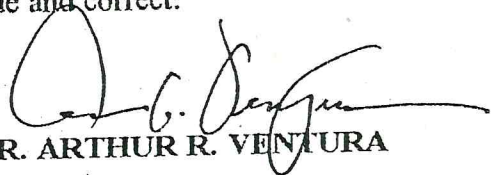
RESOLVED, as it hereby resolved, that the PCSD request the two Congressmen of Palawan to incorporate in the fisheries code and/or to initiate legal measures to completely ban the trade of live fish in Palawan and in the entire Philippines;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that appropriation be provided to strengthen law enforcement to implement the ban and to impose a maximum penalty possible to violators of this law;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of this resolution be sent to the two Congressmen of the First and Second Districts of Palawan and to Cong. Jose Tapales Villarosa, Chairman, Special Committee on the Fisheries Industry;

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of October, 1995, Quezon City.

Certified true and correct:

  
EXEC. DIR. ARTHUR R. VENTURA  
Secretary

Approved:

  
GOV. SALVADOR P. SOCRATES  
Chairman