



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Seventeenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1674

**Introduced by Representative Pantaleon D. Alvarez and
Representative Rodolfo C. Fariñas**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED SMUGGLING OF ILLEGAL DRUGS OFF THE COASTAL WATERS OF ISABELA AS WELL AS SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, on February 6, 2018, two fishermen found a blue plastic container filled with eight packs of sealed crystalline along the shore of Barangay Dipudo of the coastal town of Divilacan, Isabela which was immediately reported to the police who turned over the container to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA);

WHEREAS, PDEA reported that the substance found was cocaine weighing 18.842 kilograms with an estimated street value of P79.136 Million;

WHEREAS, PDEA stated that there are similarities in the packaging of the recovered drugs and another 25 kilograms of cocaine worth P125 Million found off the shore of Barangay Calintaan in Matnog, Sorsogon on January 3, 2018;

WHEREAS, the Bicol police and PDEA initially suspected that the drugs found on January 3, 2018 were from the vessel MV Jin Ming No. 16, which sank off Pambujan, Northern Samar on January 2, due to bad weather spawned by Tropical Storm Agaton, but a committee that investigated the sunken vessel did not find anything illegal involving the ship or its owner;

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WHEREAS, the recovery of illegal drugs off the waters of Bicol on January 3, 2018 was the second time that fishermen recovered multi-million pesos worth of high-grade cocaine in the shoreline of the region since two fishermen also found 18 bricks of cocaine worth around P100 Million on December 18, 2016, floating 100 meters off the shores of Tiwi, Albay along Lagunoy Gulf;

WHEREAS, there were reports of similar incidents in other parts of the country where smugglers were forced to dump their contraband overboard to avoid apprehension by authorities, which contraband were later found by fishermen on the shorelines;

WHEREAS, in a statement issued by PDEA Director General Aaron N. Aquino last October 2017, he said that there are transnational drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) operating in the Philippines known as Chinese triads, which found the Philippines as a possible market and transshipment point for shabu because of the country's vulnerability, particularly its porous borders and vast coastlines, a factor in the undetected movement of illegal drugs through shipment;

WHEREAS, in line with the efforts of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to eradicate the drug menace in the country, there is a need to determine what measures should be undertaken by the authorities to prevent foreign drug smugglers from sneaking in their contrabands through the coastal waters of the country: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, To direct the Committee on Dangerous Drugs to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported smuggling of illegal drugs off the coastal waters of Isabela as well as similar incidents in other parts of the country.

Adopted,


RODOLFO C. FARIÑAS


PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ