

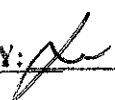
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

10 NOV -3 P1:51

SENATE
P.S.R. No. 257

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE ALLEGED INCREASE IN THEFT CASES
INVOLVING AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINES (ATMs)

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 5 of the Constitution provides, "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy";

WHEREAS, there have been reports published in several newspapers that at least five persons are allegedly victimized daily by robbers preying on bank clients withdrawing cash from automated teller machines (ATMs) in Manila, bolstering claims that members of an organized syndicate are involved;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that when police officers intensified their patrol on banks with ATM machines, it led to the arrest of two members of an alleged syndicate responsible for stealing cash withdrawals from ATMs through the use of adhesives;

WHEREAS, the police reportedly seized tools and gadgets used to trap cash on an ATM that was tampered by two suspects;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the two suspects admitted installing the device inside the ATM by pretending to be bank clients; they would wait near the ATM booth for their victim, and after the victim leaves the ATM booth without getting the cash that was withdrawn, the suspects will get the money trapped by their device;

WHEREAS, the police claimed that the suspects used a brand of glue without a hardener but maintains its adhesive capability;

WHEREAS, the police also learned that the syndicate had already tampered several ATMs in Binondo, Malabon, Quezon City and eastern Metro Manila and that such thefts have compelled Siemens Corp., the distributor of ATMs in most banks, to upgrade their machines to make them tamper-proof;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that some 12 ATM machines located at the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) branches were damaged by the suspects by tampering with the cash presenter shutter module and dispenser mechanism of the ATMs which was worth P651,713 each, and that BPI had spent more than P7 million to fix the units since January 2008:

WHEREAS, since most banks do not refund stolen withdrawals covered by transaction receipts, ultimately, hapless and unknowing victims suffer the brunt of these nefarious activities in this time of economic crisis;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, the alleged increase in theft cases involving automated teller machines (ATMs).

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
MS