


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



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SENATE
P.S.R. No. 287

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED USE OF THE DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AS AN EXIT POINT IN THE TRAFFICKING OF
FILIPINA WOMEN

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Art. 13, Sec. 14 provides, "The State shall protect working women by providing safe and healthful working conditions, taking into account their maternal functions, and such facilities and opportunities that will enhance their welfare and enable them to realize their full potential in the service of the nation";

WHEREAS, various news reports claimed that a human trafficking syndicate has been using the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport to bring women from Pampanga to Sandakan, Malaysia, where they are forced into prostitution;

WHEREAS, according to Ms. Susan Pineda, executive director of the Inang Makababaying Aksyon (IMA or Pro-Women Action) Foundation, the police has already issued an arrest warrant for the alleged head of the syndicate, Cindy Garcia Zamora, who had since posted bail;

WHEREAS, as a result of Zamora's posting bail, illegal recruitment and the alleged trafficking of women continue until today;

WHEREAS, the report claims that based on the accounts of five women rescued last year, the trafficking-for-prostitution syndicate operates as a labor-hiring agency and that recruitment was monitored in Mt. Pinatubo resettlement sites in Angeles City and Mabalacat, Pampanga;

WHEREAS, in the case of the five women, one of whom was barely 17 years old, they were promised jobs as waitresses and were assured of \$600 in monthly salary, including free travel fare, and board and lodging;

WHEREAS, according to the IMA, upon arrival in Sandakan, Malaysia, the women were reportedly taken to a house, raped and then transferred to a brothel in a high-end subdivision operated by Chinese businessmen;

WHEREAS, it is alleged that the brothel, which was packed with some 200 women, mostly from Pampanga, caters to sailors of various nationalities; and that several brothels are in the same village;

WHEREAS, there is a need to address the issue of the possible use of government facilities, such as the international airport, and the possible collusion of public officials assigned in such facilities with members of these trafficking syndicates, and the seeming inability of these government personnel to prevent the continuing operation of these trafficking rings;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committees to investigate, in aid of legislation, on the alleged use of the Diosadado Macapagal International Airport as an exit point in the trafficking of Filipina women.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
avr.