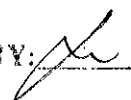




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SENATE

SECRETARY: 

Proposed Senate Resolution No. **355**

INTRODUCED BY SEN. MANNY VILLAR

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS OR ANY APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE HIGH INCIDENCE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING INVOLVING YOUNG WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND THE REPORT THAT THE PHILIPPINES IS STILL ON UNITED STATES' "TIER 2" HUMAN TRAFFICKING WATCH LIST

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution provides:

a. Article II, Section 11

"The State values the dignity of every human person x x x."

b. Article II, Section 13

"The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. x x x"

c. Article II, Section 14

"The State recognizes the role of women in nation-building, and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men."

WHEREAS, the Philippines is one of 58 countries on the United States' "Tier 2" human trafficking watch list, according to a report of the Washington DC-based US Department of State;

WHEREAS, nations on the list are those whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards set by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), which the US enacted in 2000. In these countries, the number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant, or is significantly increasing;

WHEREAS, according to the US State Department, the Philippines is a "source country and to a much lesser extent, a destination and transit country for men, women, and children who are subjected to trafficking, especially forced prostitution and labor." It also said that "a significant number of Filipinos who migrated abroad for work were subjected to conditions of involuntary servitude and forced labor in factories,

construction sites, and as domestic workers in Asia and increasingly throughout the Middle East". Moreover, "Filipino women had fallen prey to "sex trafficking in countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, and various Middle Eastern countries.";

WHEREAS, the US State Department also said that "within the Philippines, people were trafficked from rural areas to urban centers, including Manila, Cebu City, Angeles City, and also to cities in Mindanao";

WHEREAS, the US State Department cited the Philippine government for making significant efforts to comply with TVPA standards, including the increase in the number of labor trafficking cases filed in courts. However, the government "has never convicted any labor trafficking offenders," it said;

WHEREAS, in its 2010 Trafficking in Persons report, the US State Department's Bureau of Public Affairs said more than 12.3 million people around the world were engaged in forced and bonded labor, as well as prostitution. Fifty-six percent of these victims are women and girls," said the report. It also disclosed the following:

- * Human traffickers made over \$32 billion a year from the illegal trade;
- * There were at least 49,105 victims of human trafficking all over the world, a 59 percent increase over 2008 figures;
- * There were three victims of human trafficking per 1,000 people in Asia and the Pacific. Elsewhere, it was 1.8 cases per 1,000;
- * There were at least 104 countries without laws or regulations aimed at preventing the deportation of victims of human trafficking; and
- * Sixty-two countries have yet to convict a single human trafficker.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, to direct the Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations or any appropriate committee/s to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the high incidence of human trafficking involving young women and children and the report that the Philippines is still on United States' "Tier 2" human trafficking watch list.

Adopted.


MANNY VILLAR
Senator