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9 MAY 26 P2:11

S E N A T E

P. S. Res. No. **1091**

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION
URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY
RELATIONS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT
AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
ANTI-MAIL ORDER BRIDE LAW WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CRAFTING
NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE ADJUSTMENTS TO FACILITATE THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF THE STATUTE IN PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN

Whereas, the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides the significance of human rights and its protection, viz:

- Article II Section 11, "The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights"
- Article XIII, Section 1, "The Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequalities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power of the common good.";

Whereas, the fundamental law manifests the importance of women in the society and safeguards their dignity as enshrined in the following tenets:

- 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."
- Article XIII, Section 13, "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, the Filipinos were subjected to criticism, branding and name-calling recently as Chip Tsao, a journalist from Hong Kong branded the country as a "nation of servants" in his article in the HK Magazine, subsequent to another controversial episode in the American TV series, "Desperate Housewives" which disparaged a medical school graduate from the Philippines;

Whereas, a movie actor Alec Baldwin's repartee of getting a mail-order bride from the Philippines during his guest appearance in The Late Show with David Letterman is yet another case of derision by a foreigner against the country and its people;

Whereas, these issues did not only spark discussions amongst the public, but as well irked politicians and respected women's groups;

Whereas, criticisms were alluded to the Filipino's quick utterance and defense on every name-calling directed to our country and our race, appropriately that Luis Teodoro in his opinion column cites that, "Filipinos generally care on addressing these ridicules since that their remarks toward us are touching the nerves of truth";

Whereas, The government should seriously address the issues that forms negative perception to foreigners which results to discrimination and racial branding of the Filipinos;

Whereas, Baldwin's repartee which revealed the proliferation of mail-order brides in the country should motivate the government to resolve this particular set-up in the country as more and more victims are sacrificed;

Whereas, the practice of negotiating a Filipina for marriage to a foreigner through mail-order basis is pronounced illegal through the enactment of Republic Act No. 6955 or the Anti-Mail Order Bride Law of 1990;

Whereas, the law preserves the dignity of women by penalizing any attempt to sell the women for marriage like a coveted "thing" for commercial transaction;

Whereas, however, there is a need to review and introduce improvements in the Anti-Mail Order Bride Law as there are already been diverse and newly-emerging means of negotiating for mail-order brides;

Whereas, the propagation of the use of computer and the internet as one concern, adds into the depth of the issue as these already eases transaction made for buying and selling women as brides; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations and other appropriate Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the implementation of the Anti-Mail Order Bride Law with the end in view of crafting necessary legislative adjustments to facilitate the effectiveness of the statute in protecting the rights of women.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
Senator