



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

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 275

RECEIVED BY. *js*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NECESSITY OF PROCURING FIREARMS
AND PROTECTIVE GEAR FOR AGENTS OF THE OPTICAL MEDIA BOARD

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Star* reported in its 17 September 2013 issue that the Commission on Audit (COA) has urged the Optical Media Board (OMB) to buy guns and protective gear for its agents, who risk life and limb to combat criminal syndicates involved in optical media piracy;

WHEREAS, in a COA report, state auditors described the problem of optical media piracy as an organized, syndicated, transnational crime, and stated that the OMB had only two rifles and three handguns – and no bulletproof vests and helmets – as of 31 December 2012;

WHEREAS, the COA said statistics prove that OMB personnel need firearms and protective gear: 79 agents were injured in 695 out of 2,295 inspections in 2011, while 88 agents were wounded in 875 out of 2,915 operations in 2012;

WHEREAS, in the same news article, the COA said, "To augment the scarcity of the equipment at present, OMB agents were even using their personally-owned firearms the license of which was personally paid out of their personal funds. These agents also had to buy their own additional needs in operation like flashlights and such other gadgets they deemed necessary," further noting that the police cannot protect the agents at all times;

WHEREAS, the crime of optical media piracy has remained prevalent despite legislation penalizing acts of perpetration of, and relating to, the said crime;

WHEREAS, the Senate must look into the necessity of granting additional power and authority to OMB agents to ensure their personal protection and the success of their operations;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the necessity of procuring firearms and protective gear for agents of the Optical Media Board.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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