

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



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 703

105 JUN 20 2014

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED SMUGGLED FUEL FROM MALAYSIA THAT WAS SEIZED BY THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD IN PALAWAN

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 19 provides: "The State shall develop a self-reliant and independent national economy effectively controlled by Filipinos";

WHEREAS, the *philSTAR.com*, in its online article posted on 3 June 2014, reported that the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) in Palawan recently seized at least P150,000.00 worth of gasoline and diesel fuel allegedly smuggled from Malaysia;

WHEREAS, PCG Palawan district commander Commodore Enrico Efren Evangelista reportedly said that the 20 drums of gasoline and 30 liters of diesel were found on board a motorboat by PCG men stationed at Brooke's Point;

WHEREAS, Commodore Evangelista also alleged that this is not the first time that fuel and gasoline were being smuggled from Malaysia into the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Commodore Evangelista also reportedly said that a concerned citizen tipped them off about the arrival of the contraband;

WHEREAS, it was reported that on 29 May 2014, maritime patrollers from the PCG, Naval Intelligence Security Group, Marine Corps, and Marine Battalion Landing Team spotted a motorboat unloading the fuel in the waters off Bataraza;

WHEREAS, the team confiscated the fuel after Amar Abduhalim, owner of F/B BMO Express, reportedly failed to show documents for the fuel;

WHEREAS, authorities learned the BMO Express was allegedly operating with expired documents and Abduhalim was issued a maritime violation ticket and told to settle the matter within 10 days;

WHEREAS, the drums of fuel were reportedly loaded onto an Isuzu Elf with license plate WLM-135, which the authorities also confiscated;

WHEREAS, the report said that the fuel and the vehicle were turned over to the Bureau of Customs;

WHEREAS, there is a need for Congress to amend existing laws to solve the smuggling of fuel products in the Philippines;

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 reported smuggled fuel from Malaysia that was seized by the Philippine Coast Guard in Palawan.

Adopted,

acc. 
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/fmf