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

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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 1397

Introduced by Senator Teofisto "TG" Guingona III

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS & INVESTIGATIONS (BLUE RIBBON) TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE PURPORTED FOUR HUNDRED MILLION PESOS BRIBE OF A CHINESE FUGITIVE TO THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVERSING THE BUREAU'S DEPORTATION ORDER AND WHICH BRIBE MONEY WAS ALLEGEDLY USED TO GAIN APPROVAL FOR THE PROPOSED BANGSAMORO BASIC LAW FOR PLENARY DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 27 of the 1987 Constitution, Article II, states that "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption."

WHEREAS, under Executive Order No. 292, the Bureau of Immigrations is "principally responsible for the administration and enforcement of immigration, citizenship and alien admission and registration laws in accordance with the provisions of the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940, as amended (C.A. No. 613, as amended)."¹

WHEREAS, pursuant to Rule X Section 13 of the Rules of the Senate, the Senate Committee on Accountability of Public Officers & Investigations has the power to investigate all matters relating to malfeasance, misfeasance and nonfeasance in office by officers and employees of the government, its branches, agencies, subdivisions and instrumentalities.²

WHEREAS, it was reported that on February 5, 2015, Chinese national Wang Bo, a fugitive from China, was intercepted by immigration authorities upon his arrival in Ninoy Aquino International Airport.³

¹ Executive Order No. 292. Instituting the "Administrative Code of 1987." Book IV, Title III, Chapter 10, Section 31.

² Rules of the Senate, Rule X, Section 13 (36).

³ Tulfo, Erwin. "Are 2 BI officials playing 'godfather to a fugitive gambling lord?" *The Manila Times*. May 31, 2015. http://www.manilatimes.net/are-2-bi-officials-playing-godfather-to-a-fugitive-gambling-lord/188013/ (accessed June 6, 2015).

WHEREAS, it was reported that Wang Bo "possessed a Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA) work visa with a two-year validity from May 4, 2013 to May 4, 2015 through an employer called ELC Technology Consulting Co. Inc."⁴

WHEREAS, it was reported that Wang Bo is wanted in China for "illegal onlinegambling operation" and that Wang Bo's Chinese passport has been cancelled.⁵

WHEREAS, it was reported that upon request from the Chinese government, the Bureau of Immigration ordered Wang Bo deported on March 5, 2015. Upon a motion for reconsideration of the deportation order, however, Wang Bo was eventually taken off the Philippine government's blacklist.⁶

WHEREAS, it was reported that when the Chinese government submitted additional documents to prove that Wang Bo is a fugitive, Bureau of Immigration Chief Siegfred Mison voted in favor of the Chinese Embassy renewed request to deport Wang Bo, but he was outvoted by Commissioners Abdullah Mangotara and Gilbert Repizo, who favored granting Wang Bo temporary liberty. Secretary De Lima, however, stepped in and issued an order holding Wang Bo's release in abeyance.⁷

WHEREAS, it was reported that Wang Bo allegedly bribed the Bureau of Immigration officials with Four Hundred Million Pesos (P400 Million) in exchange for not being deported back to China.⁸

WHEREAS, it was reported that the alleged P400 Million bribe money was used to pay off pro-administration members of the House special ad hoc committee to vote for the approval of the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) for plenary debate.⁹

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the Bureau of Immigration to "control and regulate the movement of persons to, from and within our country in contributing to national development."¹⁰

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the Congress of the Philippines to ensure that the legislative process for the passage of the BBL or any other bill for that matter, should not be tainted with issues of bribery.

⁴ Id.

⁵ Id.

⁶ Mcrueňas, Mark. "De Luna quizzes Immigration exces over supposed bribery by Chinese fugitive." *GMA News Online*. June 4, 2015. http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/498530/news/nation/de-lima-quizzes-immigration-exces-over-supposed-bribery-by-chinese-fugitive. Accessed June 5, 2015. ⁷ Id.

⁸ Villanueva, Marichu A. "Outdated Immigration law." The Philippine Star. June 5, 2015.

http://www.philstar.com/opinion/2015/06/05/1462323/outdated-immigration-law. Accessed June 5, 2015. ⁹ Id.

¹⁰ Bureau of Immigration. "Our Mission." http://www.immigration.gov.ph/index.php/the-bureau/vision-and-mandate (accessed June 6, 2015).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Philippine Senate directs the Senate Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations (Blue Ribbon) to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the purported four hundred million pesos bribe of a Chinese fugitive to the Bureau of Immigration officials for the purpose of reversing the Bureau's Deportation Order, and which bribe money was allegedly used to gain approval for the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law for plenary debate in the House of Representatives.

Adopted,

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TEOFISTO "TG" GUINGONA III