

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 1467

RECEIVED BY: J

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PERSISTENCE OF ILLEGAL TRADE OF FILIPINOS AMID EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO CURB ILLEGAL HUMAN TRADE IN LIGHT OF THE TIER 2 CATEGORY RATING OF THE US STATE DEPARTMENT IN THE 2015 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT**

*WHEREAS*, Section 11 of Article II of the Constitution states that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights;

*WHEREAS*, the 2015 Trafficking in Persons Report cited the Philippines' effort in addressing the issue of human trafficking; however, it made mention of instances when the government allowed human smuggling to persist;

*WHEREAS*, the State Department said that "public officials, including those in diplomatic missions abroad, law enforcement agencies, and other government entities, are said to be complicit in trafficking or allow traffickers to operate with impunity.";

*WHEREAS*, the 2015 Trafficking in Persons Report is an assessment of the efforts of 188 countries to address modern-day slavery, sex trade, and other forms of abusive labor and rates each state's efforts according to a Tier system, Tier 1 being the most compliant through Tier 3 as the worst offenders;

*WHEREAS*, the Philippines has been retained in the Tier 2 category since 2011, and has been on the dreaded watch list since 2009;

*WHEREAS*, there is a need to look into this matter in order to strengthen the government's resolve in addressing the illegal trade of Filipinos or any other form of oppression not only for the sake of an upgraded rating from the US State Department, but rather for the welfare of Filipinos that were subjected to domestic servitude, forced labor in small factories, and sex trafficking.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved,* that the Senate of the Philippines directs the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights and other appropriate Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the persistence of illegal trade of Filipinos amid efforts of the government to curb illegal human trade in light of the Tier 2 category rating of the US State Department in the 2015 Trafficking in Persons Report.

*Adopted,*



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID