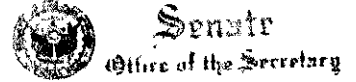


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



'15 AUG 11 P1 58

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1501

RECEIVED BY: J

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE REPORT THAT THE PHILIPPINES HAS BEEN ON THE WATCH LIST OF THE
U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT'S TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT FOR FIVE
CONSECUTIVE YEARS

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 11 provides: "The State values the
2 dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights";

3 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 29 July 2015 reported that the U.S.
4 Department of State has placed the Philippines on watch list status for the fifth straight year in its
5 global Trafficking in Persons report;

6 WHEREAS, the 2015 report, covering the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, places
7 countries that do most to fight human trafficking in Tier 1 and those that do the least in Tier 3,
8 with a watch list (Tier 2) for countries in danger of dropping to Tier 3;

9 WHEREAS, the U.S. claimed that pervasive corruption in the Philippine government
10 undermines the efforts to eliminate trafficking;

11 WHEREAS, it was further stated in the report that although the government of the
12 Philippines is making significant efforts, it does not fully comply with the minimum standards
13 for the elimination of trafficking;

14 WHEREAS, investigations of potentially complicit officials reportedly did not lead to
15 criminal convictions and in some cases even failed to secure administrative punishment against
16 offenders;

17 WHEREAS, while officials proactively identified victims exploited within the country,
18 the government allegedly failed to provide all trafficking victims access to specialized services,
19 and the protection for male victims remained minimal;

1 WHEREAS, in addition, the report claimed that the government did not make significant
2 efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts;

3 WHEREAS, the report urged the government to increase its efforts to hold government
4 officials administratively and criminally accountable for trafficking and trafficking-related
5 offenses;

6 WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, must improve anti-human trafficking
7 laws, with the goal of minimizing corruption among concerned agencies;

8 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
9 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that the
10 Philippines has been on the watch list of the U.S. State Department's Trafficking in Persons
11 report for the five consecutive years.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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/cerd