

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

5 APR 21 10:46

SENATE : 201  
Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED BY : \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

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RESOLUTION  
CREATING A SELECT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON  
ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9208 (An Act to Institute Policies to Eliminate Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, Establishing the Necessary Institutional Mechanisms for the Protection and Support of Trafficked Persons, Providing Penalties for its Violations, and for Other Purposes) was passed specifically to address the growing problem of global trafficking;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is still among the countries identified with a high incidence of human rights violations through trafficking by the U.S. State Department 's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Trafficking in Persons Report, classifying it under Tier 2 watch list;

WHEREAS, such classification was attributed to the government's failure to fully comply with the minimum international standards for the elimination of trafficking and its failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking;

WHEREAS, such classification is also attributed to the weak implementation of the anti-trafficking law and a lack of progress in the enforcement of the law with a low number of prosecution and conviction for violations;

WHEREAS, such classification puts the Philippines on the same level as Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Laos, India, Kenya, and Nigeria due to the fact that the said countries' prosecution, protection and prevention measures on anti-trafficking are ineffective;

WHEREAS, there are three tiers in the classification and Tier 3 is the least favorable in terms of the existence of human rights abuses and the Philippines' only a level from Tier 3. A downgrading to Tier-3 could subject it to sanctions, such as declining levels of economic cooperation and withholding of nonhumanitarian and nontrade-related assistance;

WHEREAS, there is a need to constitute a Select Oversight Committee on Anti-Trafficking in Persons to exercise its oversight functions over the implementation and enforcement of the law;

WHEREAS, there is a need to constitute a Select Oversight Committee to enable Congress to investigate the effectiveness of the law in the protection and the promotion of human rights the prevention of the increase in trafficking, and to assure that the appropriate departments and agencies comply with their functions as provided by law;

WHEREAS, Section 14, Rule X of the Rules of the Senate provides that whenever necessary, special committees shall be organized, the membership and jurisdiction of which shall be determined by the Senate President. Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, as it is hereby resolved, to create, a Select Oversight Committee on Anti-Trafficking in Persons to oversee the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of Republic Act No. 9208 and thereby address the growing problem of trafficking in persons, especially in women and children.*

Adopted,



M. A. MADRIGAL