

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

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SENATE
P S R No. 370

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS
MEDIA TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION
ON THE WORSENING CABLE TELEVISION PIRACY IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 24 provides that: "The State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation-building";

WHEREAS, Cable and Satellite Broadcasting Association of Asia (Casbaa) reported that the Philippines ranks second in Asia in terms of the incidence of theft in cable television programming; the cable television industry is said to have lost more than P5 billion because of piracy,

WHEREAS, the latest figures show that while the number of illegal cable subscribers are growing, that of legitimate subscribers are declining; the number of illegal cable subscribers rose by 28% from 650,000 in 2004 to 835,000 in the first half of 2005; consequently, the number of legitimate subscribers shrunk by 15% from 880,000 in 2004 to 750,000 in the first half of 2005;


WHEREAS, according to Simon Twiston Davis, chief executive officer of Casbaa, the Philippine cable television industry lost roughly P3 92 billion in 2004 due to piracy, of this amount, P2 13 billion were foregone government revenues in terms of taxes, import duties and licensing fees,

WHEREAS, the most common practice of cable television piracy done by consumers is buying descramblers to view cable or satellite television channels for free, other ways of piracy include the following. underdeclaration of subscribers by service providers to lower licensing fees; ad masking, which involves the sale of local advertising space over advertising already sold by the channel operator, and satellite overspill, which is done by pointing one's satellite dish in one area to another satellite in order to down-link channels intended for operators in another area;

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the government to intensify its efforts against intellectual property rights violations in the broadcast media;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Information and Mass Media to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the worsening cable television piracy in the country

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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