

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



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SENATE  
P.S. Resolution No. 651

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

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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN**  
**INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE PROPOSED TEMPORARY**  
**HOUSING IN THE PHILIPPINES OF SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA**  
**APPLICANTS FROM AFGHANISTAN**

**WHEREAS**, Section 7, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall pursue an independent foreign policy and that the national interest is one of the paramount considerations in the country's relations with other states;

**WHEREAS**, under Section 28 of the same article of the Constitution, the State adopts and implements a policy of full disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest, subject to reasonable conditions prescribed by law;

**WHEREAS**, the Preamble of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees recognizes that the grant of asylum may place unduly heavy burdens on certain countries;

**WHEREAS**, under Section 47 (b) of Commonwealth No. 613, otherwise known as "The Philippine Immigration Act of 1940", the admission of aliens who are refugees for religious, political, or racial reasons is conditioned on the fact that the same is for humanitarian reasons and that such admission is not opposed to public interest;

**WHEREAS**, in a letter dated 05 June 2023 by the Presidential Management Staff ("PMS"), various government agencies were required to attend a "Technical Coordination Meeting" on the "proposed temporary housing in the Philippines of Special Immigrant Visa applicants from Afghanistan". Aside from the general topic of the meeting, as well as the time and place thereof, aforesaid letter did not contain other important details;

**WHEREAS**, sources revealed that prior to the sending of such letter, the United States of America ("U.S.") had made a request for the Philippine Government to allow the admission and temporary housing in the Philippines of foreign nationals from Afghanistan. These foreign nationals, who are allegedly U.S. supporters, will be transported directly into the country from Afghanistan;

**WHEREAS**, on 07 June 2023, the "Technical Coordination Meeting", referred to in the letter of the PMS, was held. Representatives of government agencies raised various concerns. Some of the government officials present during the meeting were surprised that they were not given sufficient information beforehand on the matters that were eventually discussed therein and that their respective government agencies were not even asked to file their comments before the meeting;

**WHEREAS**, even though a technical coordination meeting was already conducted and a Memorandum of Agreement is allegedly being finalized, the PMS is yet to disclose to the public the request of the U.S. and the course of action that the Executive will take;

**WHEREAS**, this evident intent of the PMS to withhold from the public any information pertaining to the request of the U.S. and the approval thereof by the Philippine Government brings into question the real nature of such request and approval;

**WHEREAS**, the fact that the U.S. made aforesaid request to the Philippines instead of other countries that are geographically much closer to Afghanistan or which are better-equipped to accommodate such foreign nationals raises serious questions on the real intention and purpose of the U.S. in making such request;

**WHEREAS**, the fact that the U.S. opted to house these foreign nationals in another country and not on U.S. soil even though these individuals are supporters of the U.S. and, possibly, even former employees of the U.S. government or U.S. companies, casts doubts on the character and background of some of these individuals;

**WHEREAS**, there is no showing that the government agencies involved in the matter have made, or are planning to make, independent verifications and investigations on the backgrounds of these foreign individuals. Thus, there is a substantial risk that individuals who pose a threat to national security and public safety may be admitted into and housed in the country;

**WHEREAS**, while it was the policy of the Philippines during the term of former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to accept refugees from Afghanistan, the government

back then sufficiently disclosed its actions relative to such policy. Furthermore, during the past year, security and espionage threats have substantially increased because of the sharp escalation in the tension between the super power countries. This, in turn, requires a more cautious stand in admitting refugees, particularly those whose entry into the Philippines is being brokered by one of such super power country;

**WHEREAS**, to safeguard the national security and the public interest, it is imperative to ascertain the true intention behind the request of the U.S. to temporarily house foreign nationals in the Philippines, the real nature of the agreement between the Philippines and the U.S. on this matter, and the course of action that the Executive branch plans to take;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE**, that the appropriate Senate Committee be directed to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the proposed temporary housing in the Philippines of special immigrant visa applicants from Afghanistan.

*Adopted,*

  
**IMEE R. MARCOS**