NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 974

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

RESOLUTION

URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE REPORTED SCHEME OF FOREIGN NATIONALS ILLEGALLY OBTAINING LEGITIMATE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

WHEREAS, during the plenary budget deliberations for the 2024 General Appropriations Act, it was revealed that there was a scheme for the issuance of Philippine passports to Chinese nationals;

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs, foreign nationals are posing themselves as real Filipinos by presenting "authentic" and "valid" birth certificates and government-issued identification cards;

WHEREAS, it was alleged that foreign nationals were able to obtain birth certificates issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority and presented authentic persons with disability identification cards;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the Bureau of Immigration and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) intercepted more than a dozen Philippine passport holders who were "obviously not Filipinos;"

WHEREAS, the NBI also reported that a group of Chinese nationals were able to secure birth certificates from a civil registrar in a town in Caraga region;

WHEREAS, the issuance of legitimate Philippine government documents to foreign nationals poses significant risks to national security, sovereignty, and integrity;

WHEREAS, accountability of concerned agencies is imperative, and it is essential to investigate the various processes of national government agencies and the potential gaps among them that may have facilitated fraudulent activities to occur;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation into the reported scheme of foreign nationals obtaining legitimate Philippine government documents.

Adopted,

LOREN LEGARDA