

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

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 456

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE  
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION  
ON THE REPORTED INADEQUACY OF THE NEEDED RESOURCES  
TO STOP OFFSHORE SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, in the 16 February 2006 issue of *Manila Standard Today*, it was reported that the Bureau of Customs (BOC) has a patrol division but does not have patrol boats and enforcers to run after smugglers;

WHEREAS, Customs Intelligence and Enforcement Group Chief Deputy Director Celso Templo admitted that the lack of budget, personnel, communication equipment and watercraft has hampered the agency's offshore operations;

WHEREAS, Chief Deputy Director Templo said they have no intelligence funds to support their campaign against offshore smuggling; he claimed that they are presently relying on the assistance of the Philippine Coast Guard;


WHEREAS, acting Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said he has also been lobbying for the acquisition of two watercrafts, close circuit TV controllers, service vehicles, firearms and radio communications equipment;

WHEREAS, it is also claimed that smuggled cargo usually includes vegetables, sugar, used or second-hand clothing and even drugs like shabu and ecstasy coming from Thailand, Afghanistan, China and Pakistan; these smuggled goods are allegedly transported by syndicates from their ships to small vessels;

WHEREAS, officials of the Customs Enforcement and Security Services under Director Nestorio Gualberto have submitted a proposal to higher authorities on how to solve the problems of lack of resources, but the said proposal has not yet been acted upon;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the reported inadequacy of the needed resources to stop offshore smuggling activities in the country.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
