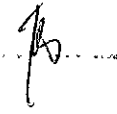


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

6 MAR 2008

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 337

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON FILIPINO SEAMEN REPORTEDLY FAILING TO
MEET INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 18 states that, "The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, in its 28 March 2008 issue, reported that officers of the Philippine Maritime Institute Alumni Association (PMIAA) expressed concern over Filipino seamen losing up to 180,000 job openings in the next two years because they are allegedly having problems meeting world seafaring standards;

WHEREAS, officers of the PMIAA cited that the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) "jeopardizes the employment" of the country's seamen because of training requirements not mandated by Republic Act No. 8544, also known as the Philippine Merchant Marine Officers Act of 1998;

WHEREAS, the PMIAA also points out the PRC's manual written licensure examination greatly discourages potential officers;

WHEREAS, the PMIAA stressed that Filipino seamen should meet the international standards in order to maintain the country's edge in world shipping;

WHEREAS, PMIAA's concerns necessitates the review of and, if necessary, amendments on R.A. No. 8544 in order to improve the competitiveness of the country's ship officers and shipping industry;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on Filipino seamen reportedly failing to meet international qualifications.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/ptmt