

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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 385

RECEIVED BY: JA

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NOTORIOUS REPUTATION OF THE
COUNTRY AS A SOURCE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS AND ITS TRANSSHIPMENT IN
ASIA

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 6425 otherwise known as the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 provides that "It is the policy of the State to safeguard the integrity of its territory and the well-being of its citizenry particularly the youth, from the harmful effects of dangerous drugs on their physical and mental well-being, and to defend the same against acts or omissions detrimental to their development and preservation.xxx";

WHEREAS, according to the March 2008 International Narcotics Control and Strategy Report released by the US Department of State, the Philippines continues to be a source of illegal drugs and their transshipment in Asia despite government efforts to curb the menace;

WHEREAS, corruption and inefficiency in the Philippine judicial process encouraged foreign traffickers to establish clandestine laboratories in the country over other Asian nations;

WHEREAS, the report further emphasized that corruption among the police, judiciary and elected officials continues to be a significant impediment to Philippine law enforcement efforts;

WHEREAS, illegal drugs and precursor chemicals entered and left the country through the various airports, seaports and economic zones; with more than 7,000 islands and over 36,200 kilometers of coastline, the country's surroundings were virtually unpatrolled;

WHEREAS, traffickers often used shipping containers, fishing boats and cargo vessels, that off-loaded to smaller craft, to transport huge quantities of methamphetamine hydrochloride and its precursor chemicals;

WHEREAS, commercial air carriers and express mail services remained the primary means of shipment to Guam, Hawaii and the US mainland, with typical shipment sizes of one to four kilos;

WHEREAS, based on the report provided by the local Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), there are eight known transnational drug organizations operating in the country in 2007, compared to seven in 2006; each group included at least five major drug lords from China and Taiwan;

WHEREAS, according to the 2007 DDB survey, there were approximately 3.4 million regular and occasional drug users in the country, compared to 6.7 million in 2004, the last year that the survey was conducted;

WHEREAS, the report also said that the Philippines was a source of methamphetamine or shabu for Australia, Canada, Japan, South Korea and the United States, particularly Guam and Saipan;

WHEREAS, methamphetamine was clandestinely manufactured in the country with precursor chemicals smuggled in or diverted after legal importation from China, including Hong Kong;

WHEREAS, law enforcement interdiction efforts should be made more effective by instituting an intelligence-sharing mechanism between the institutional forces concerned and provision of basic resources such as fuel for patrol vessels;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the notorious reputation of the country as a source of illegal drugs and its transshipment in Asia.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/dpm