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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 939

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED ESCALATING NUMBER OF
HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS ABROAD

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 11 provides: The State values the dignity of every human rights;

WHEREAS, according to the 13 March 2009 issue of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, the Blas F. Ople (BFO) Policy Center has reportedly warned of an increase in welfare cases involving human trafficking victims abroad unless various government agencies and the media put up a united front against the trafficking of women and children;

WHEREAS, under Republic Act No. 9028, a.k.a “Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003”, trafficking in persons involves the recruitment, transport, harboring, or sale of persons, within or across national borders, for the purpose of exploiting their labor.

WHEREAS, trafficked persons are forced into prostitution, domestic servitude, bonded sweatshop labor, and other kinds of work or slavery-like practices; trafficked persons are also victims of organ removal and sale;

WHEREAS, at a recent forum of the Liga ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas, former labor undersecretary Susan V. Ople, now president of the BFO Policy Center, supposedly said trafficking syndicates have become more aggressive in efforts to lure more victims to exploitative work abroad; she added that recruitment starts at the local communities particularly in slum areas and remote villages where jobless Filipinos are easy prey;

WHEREAS, prevention efforts are allegedly vital because once the trafficked victims leave the country, they would be at the mercy of syndicates and foreign employers;

WHEREAS, there is an impending need to verify the alleged increase in human trafficking to identify the problems and issues in the implementation of the current law arising from its possible gaps and loopholes;

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 reported escalating number of human trafficking victims abroad.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO