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SENATE

RECEIVED

P. S. Res. No. 1323

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EFFICACY OF THE EXISTING STATUTES, RULES, ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES AND PROCEDURES ON INTER-COUNTRY ADOPTION IN THE LIGHT OF REPORTED INCREASING NUMBER OF CHILD TRAFFICKING INCIDENTS AND UNSCRUPULOUS ADOPTION CASES USING FAKE DOCUMENTS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THE DIGNITY OF THE ADOPTED CHILDREN

Whereas, Article II Section 11 of the Philippine Constitution states, "The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights";

Whereas, the enactment of Republic Act No. 9208, otherwise known as the "Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003" on May 26, 2003 provided the light to stop the vicious practice of trafficking against women and children, especially that it had drawn plans for the establishment of localized offices to closely monitor trafficking in the society;

Whereas, the Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) news report on August 21, 2009 accounted the efforts initiated by the Inter-Country Adoption Board (ICAB), working together with seven government agency signatories for the unified purpose of ensuring institutionalization of working relationships among different sectors including the government agencies to combat child trafficking syndicates and stop the perpetrators of child abuse;

Whereas, at the average, 245 documented children are being adopted in the Philippines yearly, according to the statistics published by the International Adoption Stories.com¹;

Whereas, the InterCountry Adoption Board (ICAB) affirmed the rising trend of adoption in the country, that in the 2007 statistics of the Adoption News Central, the Philippines polled a 70% increase in documented adoptions compared to the previous years in the same survey;

Whereas, the Philippines was also included in the list of countries which have the highest increase in child adoptions, including China, Ethiopia, Russia, United States and Kazakhstan;

Whereas, Rafael Tinio, board member of ICAB, in the news article in the PDI dated August 21, 2009, acknowledged the incidents when some adoptive parents conspire with social

¹ <http://www.internationaladoptionstories.com/adoption-statistics.htm>

workers to speed up the process of adoption through the alternative of producing and using fake documents;

Whereas, Tinio stressed that these unscrupulous processes contribute to the increase of adoption in the country;

Whereas, the women and children victims of human trafficking suffer unbearable fate as they usually end up as prostitutes or domestic workers, and more so that some cases were reported where victims are subjected to inhumane organ extraction;

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the efficacy of the existing statutes, rules, administrative measures and procedures on inter-country adoption in the light of reported increasing number of child trafficking incidents and unscrupulous adoption cases using fake documents with the end in view of ensuring the dignity of the adopted children.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR
Senator