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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1401

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 NEED TO CREATE MEASURES
THAT WILL ELIMINATE CORRUPT PRACTICES IN POST OFFICES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 27 provides: "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption";

WHEREAS, in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer's* 17 September 2009 issue, one of its writers disclosed the corrupt practice by which some of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) officials assigned in post offices are able to extort money from individuals;

WHEREAS, the writer disclosed her personal experience where she ordered a pair of shoes abroad and had it shipped to the Philippines; she has done this several times and was always only made to pay P35 for the customs inspection fee, and made to claim her package from the last counter;

WHEREAS, in one instance, however, she was told by a female BOC official that she had to pay tax, which, at first was P100; but when she asked again the same official the amount she had to pay, the official told her she mistakenly said P100 when it should have been P1, 900;

WHEREAS, the BOC official then asked if the writer needed a receipt, since the writer replied in the negative, then the BOC official told her that she could haggle the price she has to pay for the tax;

WHEREAS, instead of paying P1,900, the writer was made to pay P500 instead; the BOC official even made it appear that she was doing the writer a favor;

WHEREAS, the BOC should regularly do clandestine investigations on post offices to ascertain whether such practices happen, and discipline the officials involved in such a modus operandi;

WHEREAS, all post offices should also be mandated to post on all cashier windows a list of taxes and fees a person should pay before claiming a package;

WHEREAS, citizens who have experienced such ordeals with BOC officials should be encouraged to file a case with the Office of the Ombudsman;

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 need to create measures that will eliminate corrupt practices in post offices.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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