

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 735

[Signature]

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED RISE IN DRUG TRAFFICKING IN THE
PHILIPPINES BY ORGANIZED CRIMINAL GROUPS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 mandates: "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* in its 5 March 2012 issue reported that the according to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), the Philippines is one of the countries in Southeast Asia and East Asia where a rise in drug trafficking by West African and Iranian organized criminal groups has been noted;

WHEREAS, the INCB, an independent monitoring body that implements United Nations international drug control conventions, reportedly said in a study that China (including Hong Kong), Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and the Philippines have reported increased trafficking in heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine by groups with connections to organized trafficking gangs in West Africa and Iran;

WHEREAS, according to the report, these criminal groups have established trafficking networks in Asia and usually hire drug couriers from Ghana, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand and the Philippines;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the INCB urged the governments in the two Asian regions "to devise appropriate and effective strategies to address the threats posed by trafficking in and abuse of methamphetamine and to strengthen regional cooperation in that regard";

WHEREAS, various reports stated that the Philippines has more than 200 people languishing in Chinese jails on drug-related charges;

WHEREAS, it was recently reported that a Kenyan woman was caught trying to smuggle nearly 10 kilograms of shabu, or methamphetamine hydrochloride, into the Philippines from the United Arab Emirates and that the PDEA allegedly said that it was able to intercept her after receiving a tip from a foreign counterpart agency;

WHEREAS, the State is tasked with the responsibility of eliminating the trafficking and use of illegal drugs in the country;

WHEREAS, immigration officers and customs officials should be more stringent in implementing existing measures and guidelines on tracking illegal drugs hidden in the persons or baggage of incoming or passing-by foreigners, or exiting Filipinos;

WHEREAS, the State should create measures to prevent Filipinos from being used as drug mules by implementing more efficient information-dissemination tactics and by pushing for more aggressive ways in finding and prosecuting drug-trafficking syndicates;

WHEREAS, the legislature should increase the penalties for principals of drug-trafficking, and likewise increase the penalties for drug trafficking committed by a group;

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 rise in drug trafficking in the Philippines by organized criminal groups.

Adopted,

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MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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