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SENATE
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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1478

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON STRENGTHENING THE PRIVATE SECURITY
INDUSTRY AND THEIR COORDINATION WITH THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL
POLICE TO EFFECTIVELY RESPOND TO ROBBERY, HOSTAGE SITUATION,
BOMB THREATS, AND OTHER VIOLENT AND CRIMINAL ACTS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 states: "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, various news articles on 6 November 2009 reported that officials of the Philippine National Police (PNP) are looking into conducting additional simulation exercises to test the effectiveness and efficiency of security in shopping malls, particularly in the Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela) area;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the move is both in response to preparations for the coming Christmas and New Year holidays, and to the recent robbery incidents in major malls in Metro Manila, the latest of which was at the Greenbelt Mall committed by the Alvin Flores robbery group;

WHEREAS, according to the reports, the simulation exercises involve iterations of standard operating procedures for mall security personnel in dealing with armed robbers and coordination with local police;

WHEREAS, Northern Police District Director Chief Superintendent Samuel Pagdilao reportedly said that the simulation exercise intends to put to test the effectiveness and capabilities of the mall's security personnel, equipment, and more importantly, its plan to deal with any ongoing conceivable lawless incidents that may occur, such as robbery, hostage situations, bomb threats, and shooting that can place the lives of the shoppers, mall owners and tenants in danger as well as cause unnecessary damage to mall properties;

WHEREAS, Pagdilao also alleged that the exercise aims to boost the cooperation between police and security guards for better coordination during mall robberies;

WHEREAS, the need for these simulation exercises and the increase in incidents of armed robberies in malls expose a gaping hole in the ability of private security agencies and their personnel in the performance of their duties;

WHEREAS, the incidents also call for the renewed efforts of private security agencies and local police to strengthen ties and coordination;

WHEREAS, there is a need to formulate legislation in order to both strengthen these ties and to elevate the performance and private security agencies through stricter regulations and institutional support;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved in the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on strengthening the private security industry and their coordination with the Philippine National Police to effectively respond to robbery, hostage situations, bomb threats, and other violent and criminal acts.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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