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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE
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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III

RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO INQUIRE AND LOOK INTO, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE RAMPANT USE OF PRE-PAID WIRELESS PHONES AS FAVORED TOOLS IN COMMITTING CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES DUE TO THEIR NATURE OF BEING UNREGISTERED AND UNTRACEABLE WITH THE END IN VIEW OF COMING UP WITH LEGISLATIVE MEASURES THAT CAN EFFICIENTLY NEUTRALIZE THE USE OF PRE-PAID CELLULAR PHONES BY ORGANIZED CRIMINAL ELEMENTS OF THE SOCIETY IN CARRYING OUT EFFECTIVELY ITS ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES BY LOOKING AT THE VIABILITY OF REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF PREPAID PHONE SUBSCRIBERS, AND INSTALLATION OF A GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) SOFTWARE IN ALL CELLULAR PHONE SIM CARDS TO EASILY TRACE THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE USER OR RECOMMEND THE POSSIBLE BANNING OF PREPAID CELLULAR PHONES IF THIS WOULD BE THE ONLY VIABLE MEANS OF ERADICATING PREPAID CELLULAR-AIDED CRIMES

WHEREAS, wireless phone technology has made access to telecommunication fast, easy and convenient;

WHEREAS, since the introduction of cellular phones in the country, the subscriber base grew dramatically reaching an estimated over 80 million last year which is expected to grow further, and of this number about 90% are prepaid phone users;

WHEREAS, pre-paid phone cards can be acquired practically anywhere by anybody without any required identification and credit background restrictions, making it very convenient to avail of cellular service in an instant;

WHEREAS, the perpetrators of the various bombings made use of cellular phones to trigger the defusing of the bombs that killed and injured many innocent victims;

WHEREAS, organized criminal elements made use of prepaid cell phones as a key accessories in executing crimes considering that they need a communication system that are untraceable;

WHEREAS, events of kidnappings involves the use of prepaid cellular phones to get in touch with families of the victims as well as law enforcers to communicate and relay demands, and each call maintained anonymity;

WHEREAS, government officials have not been spared from the illicit use of prepaid cellular calls having been the recipients of anonymous calls and text messages, containing threats and harassments;

WHEREAS, it can be an effective remedial measure to mandate cellular service providers to require the registration of all prepaid cell phone subscribers by asking valid ID at purchase, and in turn start building databases and come up with profiles of these buyers the same way police detectives profile criminal suspects;

WHEREAS, it may also help curtail cellular phone related crimes if service providers will be required to install additional technological security softwares in their sim cards such as voice authentication software and global positioning satellite technology, as examples;

WHEREAS, criminal use of wireless technology is a global problem, in other countries wherein the use of prepaid mobile lines are likewise rampant, have started requiring their service providers of inputting security devices to counter criminal activities;

WHEREAS, if the above-stated remedial measures still come up to be ineffective to bring to an end crimes using prepaid cell phone as a tool, it might be best to take drastic step to completely ban the selling of prepaid cellular service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved to urge the Committee on Public Services and Science and Technology to inquire and look into, in aid of legislation, the rampant use of pre-paid wireless phones as a favored tools in committing criminal activities due to its nature of being unregistered and untraceable with the end in view of coming up with legislative measures that can efficiently neutralize the use of prepaid cellular phones by organized criminal elements of the society in carrying out effectively its illegal activities by looking at the viability of requiring the registration of prepaid phone subscribers, and installation of a Global Positioning System (GPS) software in all cellular phone sim cards to easily trace the exact location of the user or recommend the possible banning of prepaid cellular phones if this would be the only viable means of eradicating prepaid cellular-aided crimes.

ADOPTED,


VICENTE C. SOTTO III
Senator