

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P.S.R. No. 154

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED INCREASE IN THEFT CASES
INVOLVING AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINES (ATMs)

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 5 of the Constitution provides, "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, there have been reports published in several newspapers on theft cases in ATMs where Manila Police District officials said that at least five persons are victimized daily by robbers preying on bank clients withdrawing cash from automated teller machines (ATMs) in Manila, bolstering claims that members of an organized syndicate are involved;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that when police officers intensified their patrol on banks with ATM machines, it led to the arrest of two members of an alleged syndicate responsible for stealing cash withdrawals from ATMs through the use of adhesives;

WHEREAS, the various news reports said that police seized tools and gadgets used to trap cash on an ATM that was tampered by the two suspects who got five pieces of P500 bills and two pieces of P200 bills that got stuck on the cash-trapping device;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the two suspects admitted installing the device inside the ATM by pretending to be bank clients, then they would wait near the ATM booth for their victim, and after the victim leaves the ATM booth without getting the cash that was withdrawn, the suspects will get the money trapped by their device;

WHEREAS, the police claimed that the suspects used a brand of glue without a hardener but maintains its adhesive capability;

WHEREAS, the police also learned that the syndicate had already tampered several ATMs in Binondo, Malabon, Quezon City and eastern Metro Manila and that such thefts have compelled Siemens Corp., the distributor of ATMs in most banks, to upgrade their machines to make them tamper-proof;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that some 12 ATM machines located at the Bank of the Philippine Islands branches were damaged by the suspects by tampering with the cash presenter shutter module and dispenser mechanism of the ATMs which was worth P651,713 each, and that BPI had spent more than P7 million to fix the units since January 2008;

WHEREAS, since most banks do not refund stolen withdrawals covered by transaction receipts, it is ultimately that the hapless and unknowing victims should suffer the brunt of these nefarious activities in this time of economic crisis;

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 increase in theft cases involving automated teller machines (ATMs).

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
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