

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

SECRET  
Office of the Secretary

13 SEP 11 P5:17

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 250

RECEIVED

*Jia*

---

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

---

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED PROLIFERATION OF CIGARETTE SMUGGLING IN COUNTRY, AND REPORTED PLAN BY THE NATIONAL TOBACCO ADMINISTRATION TO IMPOSE LICENSE FEES ON SELLERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF IMPORTED TOBACCO PRODUCTS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 19 provides: "The State shall develop a self-reliant and independent national economy effectively controlled by Filipinos";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Star* in its 25 August 2013 issue reported that public health advocates composed of the Action for Economic Reforms, Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Alliance Philippines, Philippine College of Physicians, Philippine Society of General Internal Medicine, and Womanhealth Philippines, claimed that the National Tobacco Administration (NTA) should adopt effective policies to combat cigarette smuggling;

WHEREAS, the group also asked the NTA to establish a tracking system to effectively monitor the movement of all tobacco products;

WHEREAS, the group was reportedly responding to the NTA's plan to impose license fees on sellers and distributors of imported tobacco products;

WHEREAS, the group challenged NTA to prove the legitimacy of its intention to curb illicit cigarette trade, and not merely perpetuate discrimination against foreign products;

WHEREAS, the group are calling for a genuine smuggling-control policy that will address all threats of illicit trade, including counterfeiting and domestic smuggling;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that cigarette smuggling operations are still active, such as the one reported last 28 May 2013 when the Bureau of Customs Intelligence Group (BOC-IG) seized illegally imported cigarettes and other products from China worth P30 million;

WHEREAS, according to the report, the government is expecting tax revenue to rise by imposing additional taxes on cigarettes and alcohol products through the recent passage of Republic Act No. 10351, also known as the Sin Tax Reform Law;

WHEREAS, Congress should formulate appropriate measures to eliminate cigarette smuggling to fulfill its mandate in protecting the health of Filipinos local industry, as well as the local tobacco industry, as established in R. A. No. 10351;

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 proliferation of cigarette smuggling in country, and reported plan by the National Tobacco Administration to impose license fees on sellers and distributors of imported tobacco products.

Adopted,

*acs*   
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAÑO

/rjd