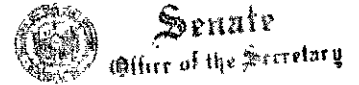


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 685

RECEIVED BY. *J*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON REPORTS THAT SYNDICATES USE COURIER CARGO SERVICES TO DELIVER ILLEGAL DRUGS NATIONWIDE

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5, 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, the *Philippine Star* reported on 18 May 2014 that the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) was reportedly concerned with the number of incidents involving the seizure of illegal drugs in packages sent through known courier services operating in the country, after the drugs were confiscated during an operation on May 12 following a report from Bureau of Customs officers;

WHEREAS, PDEA spokesperson Derrick Carreon reportedly said that a parcel containing an undisclosed amount of methamphetamine hydrochloride, also known as shabu, was discovered last week at a warehouse of a courier service at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport;

WHEREAS, it was also said that PDEA director general Arturo Cacdac said a self-sealing transparent package containing a sachet of shabu was discovered concealed in a package bound for Israel, and added that illegal drugs were also found stuffed in the heel of a slipper;

WHEREAS, the news report also mentioned that PDEA operatives in Palawan intercepted on April 30 a package containing two kilos of marijuana placed inside a carton and sealed in plastic, and that the supposed recipient did not claim the package; prior to the operation, it was said that an intelligence report was received by PDEA Palawan Provincial Office that a package containing dried marijuana leaves is due for delivery using a courier service;

WHEREAS, it was reported that PDEA also intercepted ₱5.2 million worth of suspected shabu shipped through a known courier service to Iligan City on April 8 and arrested consignee Asliah Sambitory, who picked up the package of 750 grams of shabu concealed in a speaker box;

WHEREAS, PDEA operatives also reportedly intercepted at the Zamboanga International Airport in 2013 a parcel containing 600 grams of suspected shabu worth ₱3 million concealed in eight plastic bundles wrapped with electrical tape, together with flip-flop sandals, inside a package bound for Tawi-Tawi; it was said that transportation security intercepted the parcel

before it was sent to its final destination in Tawi-Tawi; operatives also reportedly seized 18 kilos of shabu contained inside balikbayan boxes at the same airport in the same year;

WHEREAS, Carreon added that their operatives are investigating the people supposedly behind the transport of the illegal drugs;

WHEREAS, although solving this problem requires freight owners to cooperate with law enforcement agencies as well as intensified police intelligence operations; still, Congress should look into this modus operandi to identify possible loopholes or weaknesses in the country's freight services laws and similar measures to prevent illegal drug syndicates from exploiting these gaps for their operations;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED IN THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on reports that syndicates use courier cargo services to deliver illegal drugs nationwide.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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