

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



'14 JUN 19 P1:34

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 730

RECEIVED BY: *J*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT MANY FILIPINOS DO NOT HAVE ANY
ACCESS TO FORMAL BANKING SERVICES OR ANY TRADITIONAL RELATIONSHIPS
WITH A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 9 provides: "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

WHEREAS, a Yahoo! News Philippines online article posted on 3 June, 2014 reported that in the study "The Road to Inclusion: A Look at the Financially Excluded and Underserved" by credit card company Mastercard, and conducted by global market research company Ipsos, claimed that some Filipinos prefer to keep their money at home, in closets, and other unlikely areas, and that they go to banks as their last resort when they need money;

WHEREAS, the study's findings note that lack of access to bank accounts remains a problem among Filipinos despite their access to mobile phones, the internet, and other technologies;

WHEREAS, according to the study, even economically active Filipinos remain financially excluded, meaning they don't have any access to formal banking services or any traditional relationships with a financial institution;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the average age of financially excluded individuals in the Philippines was 41 years old, which include those who claim to be currently working and consistently spend;

WHEREAS, the report said that, given the current levels of employment, the lack of financial inclusion among these target groups seems significant, which is based on surveys on 100 Filipinos;

WHEREAS, the survey reportedly also covered more than 500 respondents in Egypt, India, Indonesia, Nigeria and Vietnam from October 2013 to March 2014;


WHEREAS, the study reportedly found that the employment levels and the proportion of

the population with secondary or higher education were deemed disproportionate to the level of financial exclusion in the country;

WHEREAS, while supporting the banking sector in the country, Congress should formulate policies that would take advantage of the upturn in the country's economy by bolstering banking awareness programs, ensure comprehensive development through legislated economic reforms, as well as educate and encourage Filipinos to be financially responsible and prudent;

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 report that many Filipinos do not have any access to formal banking services or any traditional relationships with a financial institution.

Adopted,

act

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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