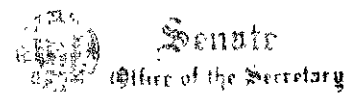


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



'14 SEP -3 P3:07

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 886

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON SMUGGLING OPERATIONS USING CARGO FORWARDING
SERVICES, IN THE LIGHT OF THE REPORT ON SMUGGLED WATCHES SEIZED BY
THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AT THE NINOY AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 27 provides: "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption;"

WHEREAS, mb.com.ph, in a news article posted on 12 August 2014, reported that the Bureau of Customs (BOC) has intercepted 413 smuggled Casio G-Shock watches concealed in six balikbayan boxes that arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA);

WHEREAS, the imported watches reportedly came from Dubai via cargo carriers FOREX and FILEX Cargo, and have an estimated total value of P4 million;

WHEREAS, NAIA district collector Edgar Macabeo said that they have received reports that certain individuals are trying to use various cargo forwarding companies to try and smuggle items into the country;

WHEREAS, Macabeo reportedly said that the shipments were subjected to Alert Order by the BOC's Intelligence Group based on derogatory information;

WHEREAS, it was reported that upon spot-checking by authorities, it was found out that the contents were watches instead of declared personal effects such as chocolates or groceries, and were seized by customs officials at the NAIA for violation of Section 2530 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Macabeo also stressed that their heightened vigilance at the airport resulted to the foiled smuggling attempt of the high value items;

WHEREAS, there is a need for Congress to formulate applicable laws or amend existing laws to solve widespread smuggling in the Philippines, particularly those that employ schemes such as the use of forwarding companies;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on smuggling operations using cargo forwarding services, in the light of the report on smuggled watches seized by the Bureau of Customs at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/fmf