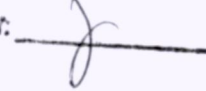




SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'16 DEC 15 P1:47

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P.S. Res No. 256

Introduced by Senator Franklin M. Drilon

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND
GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBLE
REORGANIZATION OF THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION**

1 WHEREAS, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) is tasked with the vital role of
2 protecting our territory against unscrupulous foreigners whose presence in the
3 country threatens national security, public safety, public morals and public health;

4 WHEREAS, there is a pressing need to confront and address the systemic and
5 institutional weaknesses that make the BI susceptible to corruption by, among
6 others, establishing stronger standards for selection of officers and a more stringent
7 system for discipline of employees;

8 WHEREAS, the present controversy involving BI Associate Commissioners Al
9 C. Argosino and Michael B. Robles is centered on allegations that they have extorted,
10 or received as a payoff, the amount of Fifty Million pesos from Chinese casino mogul
11 Jack Lam;

12 WHEREAS, the brazen act of corruption allegedly committed by high-ranking
13 immigration officials bolsters the perception of a deeply entrenched culture of
14 corruption in the BI, underscores the magnitude of the institutional problem that
15 needs to be addressed and runs counter to the stern and unforgiving anti-corruption
16 policy of President Duterte;

17 WHEREAS, while measures have been undertaken to curb the opportunities
18 for corruption in the BI, such as the reshuffle of the NAIA immigration staff in
19 October of this year, such efforts appear to be inadequate;

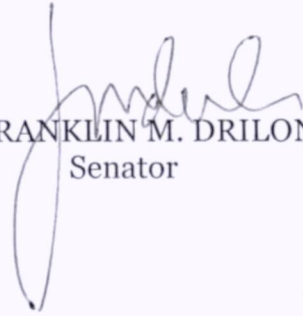
20 WHEREAS, it has therefore become imperative to explore the possible
21 reorganization of the BI to carry out immigration reforms designed to make the
22 agency resistant to corruption and to make way for a more efficient implementation
23 of our immigration policies by a professional institution;

24 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the Senate to study and formulate remedial
25 legislation in order to restore public confidence in our immigration controls and in
26 the institution that carries out such function;

1 WHEREAS, Rule X, Section 13 (31) of the Rules of the Senate provides that
2 the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization shall have
3 jurisdiction over all matters relating to the Civil Service and the status of officers and
4 employees of the Government including their appointment, discipline and
5 retirement; reorganization of the Government or any of its branches or
6 instrumentalities; and all other matters relating to the bureaucracy: *Now, therefore,*
7 *be it*

8 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, to direct the Committee on Civil Service and
9 Government Reorganization to look into the possible reorganization of the Bureau of
10 Immigration.

Adopted,


FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Senator