



SENATE
P. S. Res No. 309

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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES, TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY AND ASSESSMENT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE VISA UPON
ARRIVAL POLICY FOR CHINESE NATIONALS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF
ENSURING THAT THE VISA UPON ARRIVAL SCHEME WOULD NOT POSE
HEALTH RISKS AND FACILITATE THE PROLIFERATION OF SEX
TRAFFICKING AND PROSTITUTION IN THE COUNTRY

1 WHEREAS, under Department Circular 041 issued by then Justice Secretary
2 Vitaliano Aguirre II, landed visas or Visa Upon Arrival (VUA) are issued to nationals
3 from the People's Republic of China (PROC). The VUA allows a Chinese national to
4 stay in the Philippines for 30 days and may apply for an extension of up to a
5 maximum period of six months¹;

6 WHEREAS, this is in line with the government's thrust to increase tourism and
7 foreign investment, and to better facilitate the expeditious entry and admission of
8 PROC Nationals into the country²;

9 WHEREAS, nearly 300 Chinese sex workers and their clients were rounded up
10 in raids by the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police on
11 12 brothels in six cities in the second half of 2019³;

12 WHEREAS, the sudden proliferation of Chinese prostitution is tied to the
13 explosive growth of Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators, or POGOS, online

¹ Department of Justice, Department Circular No. 41, series of 2017,
<https://www.doj.gov.ph/files/2017/DCs/DC2017AUG041%20Granting%20Visa%20Upon%20Arrival%20to%20PROC%20Nationals%20dtd%2015%20Aug%202017.pdf>

² Ibid.

³ South China Morning Post News Website, Rise of Chinese-only prostitution catches Philippines by surprise,
<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3045605/rise-chinese-only-prostitution-catches-philippines-surprise>

gambling companies based in the Philippines that cater to players in China, where gambling is illegal⁴;

WHEREAS, clients of Chinese operated sex dens in the country book appointments in advance through cellphone applications⁵;

WHEREAS, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said the Chinese man from Wuhan, China the epicenter of the nCoV acute respiratory disease outbreak was recorded as the second confirmed case of the potentially deadly infection in the country⁶;

WHEREAS, according to Port Operations Division chief Grifon Medina, Immigration officials screen Chinese nationals entering the Philippines, checking not just their documents but also for signs that they may be victims of human trafficking⁷;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to inquire and assess the current Visa application process for Chinese nationals, taking into consideration the outbreak of the Novel Corona Virus and the rise of Chinese operated sex dens in the country, and which calls for a more vigilant and tougher government regulation;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, directing the proper Senate committees, to conduct an inquiry and assessment, in aid of legislation, on the Visa Upon Arrival Program for Chinese nationals, with the end in view of ensuring that the Visa Upon Arrival Scheme would not pose health risks and facilitate proliferation of sex trafficking and prostitution in the country.

Adopted,


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ CNN News Website, Nearly 100 Chinese women rescued in alleged app-powered prostitution den in Makati, https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2019/10/1/Nearly-100-Chinese-women-rescued-in-app-powered-prostitution-den-in-Makati.html?fbclid=IwAR3K0i4z1zXc0KZCxDWm_EVCEHxI5_nIF_igMRLHp_4jPFxjJOW6B1_-BY%3Ffbclid

⁶ Philstar News Website, Philippines reports 1st nCoV death, <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/02/03/1989970/philippines-reports-1st-ncov-death>

⁷ Philstar News Website, <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/01/28/1988472/immigration-actually-strict-screening-chinese-arrivals-official-says>