

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)**



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**SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 997**

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED FRAUDULENT USE OF THE SPECIAL RESIDENT RETIREE'S VISA (SRRV) BY ORGANIZED CRIME SYNDICATES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF REVIEWING EXISTING GOVERNMENT POLICY ON THE ISSUANCE OF SRRV AND IMPLEMENTING STRICTER VETTING PROCESS

WHEREAS, according to news reports, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) has arrested four Chinese who were suspected to be members of "Chinese mafia" involved in the proliferation of fraudulently acquired government-issued IDs and documents, including genuine Philippine passports with questionable Special Resident Retiree's Visa (SRRV);

WHEREAS, it would appear that the arrested Chinese nationals were passing themselves off as retirees being holders of Philippine passports with SRRV;

WHEREAS, the SRRV is a special non-immigrant visa for foreign nationals who choose to retire in the Philippines. It is granted by the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA);

WHEREAS, SRRV-holders enjoy a number of benefits which include, among others, (1) indefinite stay with multiple-entry/exit privileges; (2) exemption from BI requirements; (3) eligibility to work, study or invest in the Philippines; and (4) free assistance in transacting with other government agencies, such as securing government documents, including but not limited to, driver's license, National Bureau of Investigation Clearance and Alien Employment Permit, among others;

WHEREAS, PRA data show that, as of January 31, 2024, Chinese nationals accounted for the highest number of foreign retirees in the country. There are 29,478 Chinese nationals out of the total 77,252 foreign retirees in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, PRA data also reveal that majority of the aforementioned Chinese nationals are between 35-49 years-old;

WHEREAS, the issuance and renewal of SRRV have long been exploited and Chinese syndicates have likely connived, maintained ties and established networks within the government bureaucracy;

WHEREAS, visa fraud and fake identities adversely impact national security. PRA's policy of allowing Chinese SRRV applicants who are 35 years old is highly alarming as it falls in the bracket of the so-called "soldier's age" ;

WHEREAS, the growing number of interceptions of Chinese nationals presenting authentic government-issued Philippine documents identifying them as Filipino traders or retirees has now become a national security concern;

WHEREAS, all concerned agencies should start to identify potential national security implications of the current government policy on the issuance of SRRV;

WHEREAS, the circumvention of the SRRV policy by organized crime syndicates, to undermine Philippine laws and perpetrate illegal activities in the country, is a national security concern that the Senate urgently needs to look into considering that it imposes serious national security risks;

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines directs the proper Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported fraudulent use of the Special Resident Retiree's Visa (SRRV) by organized crime syndicates, with the end in view of reviewing existing government policy on the issuance of SRRV and implementing stricter vetting process

Adopted,


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY