

FILE COPY

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

6 JAN 17 12:01

SENATE

RECEIVED BY:

P.S. Res. No. 411

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND ILLEGAL DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED ESCAPE-FOR-A-FEE SCHEME IN PHILIPPINE JAILS WITH THE END VIEW OF RECOMMENDING THE FILING OF APPROPRIATE CRIMINAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES AGAINST ERRING PUBLIC OFFICERS, AND IMPOSING STRICTER PENALTIES FOR INFIDELITY IN THE CUSTODY OF PRISONERS UNDER THE REVISED PENAL CODE

WHEREAS, a Sri Lankan national who is an inmate at the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID) detention in Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig will be used by the Department of Justice (DOJ) to prove that there is an existing "escape-for-a-fee" scheme being peddled in Philippine jails;

WHEREAS, Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco said the Sri Lankan was among the seven foreigners that the DOJ prosecutors and the National Bureau of Immigration (NBI) have taken into custody. The Sri Lankan national will testify how another Sri Lankan and two Chinese nationals, allegedly facing drug-related cases, escaped from the BID detention cell last December;

investigation

WHEREAS, the Sri Lankan who escaped was about to testify for the government in connection with the mysterious deportation of Zhang Du, alias Wilson Zhang, who was deported on May 7, 2005 though still facing trial at the San Fernando City Regional Trial Court (RTC) in La Union. Zhang Du is one of the accused in the kidnapping of Jackie Tiu;

WHEREAS, Velasco said the jail guards of the BID showed many security lapses. They also did not even call the Philippine National Police (PNP) Scene of the Crime Operatives (SOCO) to investigate the escape of the Sri Lankan and the two Chinese nationals last December immediately after learning about their escape;

WHEREAS, Article 223 of the Revised Penal Code imposes a penalty of *prison correccional* in its minimum period and temporary special disqualification of any public officer who shall consent to the escape of a prisoner in his custody or charge in case the fugitive shall not have been finally convicted but only held as a detention prisoner for any crime or violation of law or municipal ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, into the alleged escape-for-a-fee scheme in Philippine jails with the end view of recommending the filing of appropriate criminal and administrative charges against erring public officers, and imposing stricter penalties for infidelity in the custody of prisoners under the Revised Penal Code.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
Senator