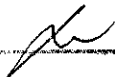


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

8 JUN 26 12:08

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 468

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STUNTING EFFECT OF INADEQUATE AND  
POOR INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE COUNTRY'S TOURISM POTENTIAL

WHEREAS, an article in the 17 June 2008 of the Philippine Daily Inquirer reported that Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano said that the Philippines will fail to meet its goal of attracting five million foreign tourists a year by 2010 due to poor transport links;

WHEREAS, despite pristine beaches and an English-speaking population, the Philippines remains a small player in the holiday market because of an underdeveloped leisure sector and poor infrastructure, which is a bigger drawback than Muslim and communist insurgencies and political instability besetting the country;

WHEREAS, elsewhere in Southeast Asia, Thailand has remained a top tourist draw despite SARS, bird flu, a military coup and a Muslim insurgency in the south and expects to draw 15.7 million foreign tourists this year, up 8.3 percent from last year;

WHEREAS, according to Sec. Durano, the lack of road links and suitable airports prevented the Philippines, which has more than 7,000 islands, from taking off as a major tourism player;

WHEREAS, it was alleged that earlier this year, the US Federal Aviation Administration said that the Philippines did not comply with international safety standards and, across the country, underfunded airports were straining to deal with more travelers;

WHEREAS, despite capacity constraints and a shaky global economy, the Philippines is still aiming to increase tourist arrivals by 13 percent this year;

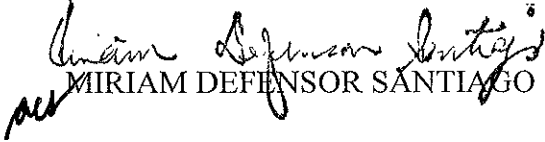
WHEREAS, the government could earn much from the revenue raked in by tourism, such as last year when a record was set in Philippine tourism when nearly 3.1 million tourist arrivals translated to \$4.8 billion in receipts, nearly meeting the \$5.0 billion in receipts Arroyo had envisaged from five million visitors by 2010;

WHEREAS, the State should address the problem of tourism by developing more roads, highways and railroad systems that would link different areas in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, as Sec. Durano has put it, the Philippines could become the Spain of Asia if the government could create better infrastructure that would aid the mobility of commuters, especially tourists in the country;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the stunting effect of inadequate and poor infrastructure on the country's tourism potential.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/mat