

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

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SENATE

P.S.R. No. 724

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED UNDECLARED CASH FOUND CARRIED BY RETIRED PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR ELISEO DE LA PAZ'S, WHICH WAS BEYOND RUSSIA'S CUSTOM'S LIMIT FOR DEPARTING PASSENGERS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 27, states "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption";

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 28, states "Subject to reasonable conditions prescribed by law, the State adopts and implements a policy of full public disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* in its 16 October 2008 issue reported that retired Philippine National Police (PNP) Director Eliseo de la Paz, the national comptroller, was detained in Moscow, Russia after he was caught by customs inspectors carrying cash beyond the outbound limit in his carry-on bag;

WHEREAS, De la Paz was the disbursement officer for the PNP delegation to the 77<sup>th</sup> Interpol General Assembly in Saint Petersburg;

WHEREAS, De la Paz was reportedly found carrying what was left of a P6.93-million fund or 105,000 euros entrusted to him to cover official expenses of the 12-member PNP group;

WHEREAS, Secretary Ronaldo Puno of the Department of Interior and Local Government, mentioned in a travel authorization dated 4 September 2008, that only a P2.3 million fund was intended for the delegation; however, Puno later alleged that the P6.93 million was a cash advance to cover travel, accommodations, food, incidentals and contingency for the Philippine delegation;

WHEREAS, even the National Police Commission (Napocolm), the approving office for official travels of the PNP, reportedly revealed that declared disbursements for the Moscow trip only amounted to P2.3 million;

WHEREAS, although the exact amount of money found in the bag remains unconfirmed, Chief Superintendent Nicanor Vartolome confirmed that the amount exceeded \$3,000, which was the customs limit for departing passengers that required special export permission;

WHEREAS, some of the delegates brought their wives along, but these delegates alleged that their wives spent their own money;

WHEREAS, Russian customs officials required De la Paz to submit proof that the undeclared cash came from legitimate sources; although De la Paz was later cleared, it is still questionable where the source of the money came from;

WHEREAS, the source of the money should be clarified; if it is public money, the question is, who authorized it; if it is private money, where did it come from;

WHEREAS, the huge amount of money leads to the suspicion that it may have come from "police patrons";


WHEREAS, the PNP delegates' wives' travel expenses should also be revealed, including the source of their money, and if such is within the limit of their income;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that De la Paz explain why he is carrying an excessive amount when he could have deposited it to the PNP's account, if there was any; use travel checks; or only carry the amount needed to pay for airport fees and other expenses on their return to the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the Napocolm should also be investigated and questioned as to how De la Paz got hold of an excessive amount of money, and if such was approved by them or not;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Philippine Senate to direct the Committee on Foreign Relations to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the reported undeclared cash found carried by retired Philippine National Police Director Eliseo de la Paz's, which was beyond Russia's custom's limit for departing passengers.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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