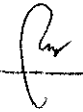


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



11 MAR -3 P 2:49

SENATE
P.S.R. No. 409

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NEED TO CREATE MEASURES TO CURB THE RISE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT BY DRUG SYNDICATES IN THE COUNTRY THROUGH SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 18 states: "The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* last 1 March 2011 reported that social networking sites, particularly Facebook, are being used by drug syndicates to recruit unsuspecting Filipinos as drug mules;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) advised Filipinos to be wary of foreigners suddenly "liking" you on Facebook or other social networking sites; according to PDEA spokesperson Derrick Carreon, many drug mules were befriended and recruited online;

WHEREAS, it is bothering to note that such cases of online recruitment are increasing and that recruiting online is the preferred avenue of drug syndicates to target their victims;

WHEREAS, it was reported that according to PDEA data, drug syndicates pay mules up to \$3,000 for each successful trip; some are recruited as tourists, while others are promised jobs abroad;

WHEREAS, due to the increase in recruitment, Carreon reportedly said that they are launching a media campaign to warn Filipinos about the dangers of being a drug courier for such syndicates

WHEREAS, a more intense government campaign should be launched warning Filipinos, especially those desperate to get jobs abroad, to be wary of illegal recruiters;

WHEREAS, it may be elementary knowledge that one should not talk or entertain strangers; however, due to the accommodating and hospitable nature of Filipinos, it will be prudent for the government to put up signs in airports reminding Filipinos not to accept packages from strangers, and not to be lured easily by big money;

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the legislature to create measures that will curb the rise of illegal recruitment 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 reported need to create measures to curb the rise of illegal recruitment by drug syndicates in the country through social networking sites.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/mnt