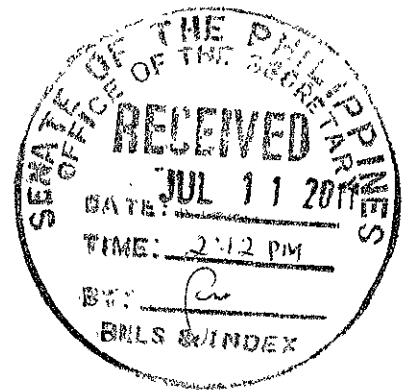


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE
P.S.R. No. 530

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON ALLEGATIONS THAT TOURISM SECRETARY ALBERTO LIM HAS FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE TOURISM ACT OF 2009

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 11, Section 1 provides: "Public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must, at all times, be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency; act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives";

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9593, or the Tourism Act of 2009, states: "The State declares tourism as an indispensable element of the national economy and an industry of national interest and importance, which must be harnessed as an engine of socio-economic growth and cultural affirmation to generate investment, foreign exchange and employment, and to continue to mold an enhanced sense of national pride for all Filipinos";

WHEREAS, in an 11 July 2011 column at the *Manila Bulletin*, entitled "A Whole Year with PNoy: The Gains and What Remains," columnist Andrew James Masigan wrote that Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim "is not the right man for the job and therefore must go";

WHEREAS, the column alleges that "Lim remains distant and unresponsive to the stakeholders of the tourism industry (hotel operators, travel and tour agencies, ground logistics companies, etc. collectively represented by the Tourism Congress) despite their reaching out to him. He has not met with the Tourism Congress even once, despite being mandated to do so per the Tourism Act of 2009";

WHEREAS, the Tourism Act, Section 104, states: "Within thirty (30) days from the publication of the implementing rules and regulations of this Act, the Secretary shall convene a Tourism Congress of representatives of all accredited tourism enterprises and former government officials involved in the tourism industry to serve as the private sector consultative body to assist the government in the development, implementation and coordination of Philippine tourism policy.

"The Tourism Congress shall adopt and ratify its constitution, shall elect its officers and shall establish a secretariat, both for the Tourism Congress as a whole and

for component sectors. It shall also nominate such representatives as required under this Act. Finally, it shall endeavor to meet annually to carry out its mandate”;

WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin* column further states that “Lim’s indifference would be somewhat justified if our tourism numbers were flying. They are not. His first year is marked with false starts and... pretty much nothing else”;

WHEREAS, during last year’s hearings of the Commission on Appointments on Lim’s confirmation, oppositors from the tourism industry vehemently criticized Lim’s position on the “open skies” policy, his response to the August 2010 hostage incident at the Luneta, and the bungled “Pilipinas Kay Ganda” campaign of the Department of Tourism;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Constitutional requirement of utmost responsibility and efficiency from government officials, and in light of the State policy that tourism is an indispensable element of the national economy and an industry of national interest and importance, it is necessary to look into complaints from the tourism industry and media reports that Lim has failed to comply with provisions of the Tourism Act of 2009;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on allegations that Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim has failed to comply with the Tourism Act of 2009.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO