

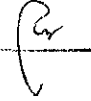
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

Office of the Secretary

12 MAY 31 P1:59

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. **789**

REF

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 NEED TO PRIORITIZE THE PROMOTION AND  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY'S TRAVEL AND TOURISM INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 19 provides: "The State shall develop a self-reliant and independent national economy effectively controlled by Filipinos";

WHEREAS, according to a 31 May 2012 article in the *Philippine Star*, the Philippines remains one of the least competitive in travel and tourism among member-countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) despite efforts of the Philippines to help boost tourism competitiveness;

WHEREAS, the article is based on the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report 2012 which stated that although the Philippines' tourism potential is very high, given that it allows nationals of 151 countries to enter the country without visas, the country trails the rest of the region with a ranking of 65 in 13 pillars in the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI);

WHEREAS, TTCI is a comprehensive framework that aims to measure the factors and policies that make it attractive to develop the T&T sector in different countries and it is based on three broad categories of variables that facilitate or drive travel and tourism (T&T) competitiveness;

WHEREAS, these categories are summarized in the three subindexes of the Index namely, the T&T regulatory framework subindex; the T&T business environment and infrastructure subindex; and (iii) the T&T human, cultural, and natural resources subindex;

WHEREAS, the factors that prevent the country from realizing its full potential include safety and security issues as well as poor infrastructure; these, according to the WEF, caused the Philippines's travel and tourism industry to lag behind most of its Asean neighbors;

WHEREAS, the lack of infrastructure in tourism such as lodgings and ICT infrastructure has always been cited as a major development constraint of the Philippines since this affects air and ground transportation connectivity;

WHEREAS, the report also noted that the other factors affecting the country's tourism potential were health and sanitation, environmental sustainability, and cultural resources;

WHEREAS, it was reported that according to WEF Managing Director Borge Brende, travel and tourism are not only critical drivers of economic development and social progress but they also represent a formidable factor of regional integration;

WHEREAS, the WEF said the report highlighted the potential for developing the T&T sector in Asean and the region's wealth of natural and cultural heritage and it also discussed the diversity of Asean members that enhances the region's attractiveness;

WHEREAS, Asean is an affordable destination by international standards yet, in most countries such as the Philippines, the potential has been only partially tapped, owing to a number of weaknesses and these factors include inadequate infrastructure, poor public health, and weak environmental stewardship;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that conservation efforts must also be undertaken to protect the region's natural heritage, which is central to its T&T competitiveness;

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 need to prioritize the promotion and development of the country's travel and tourism industry.

Adopted,

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MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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