

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

12 JAN 2012 10:00 AM

SENATE
PSR No. 897

13

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Martin L. Pimentel III

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED UNREASONABLE EXCLUSION AND OTHER ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES DIRECTED AGAINST CHINESE TOURISTS COMMITTED BY SOME OFFICERS OF THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION, IN VIOLATION OF COMMONWEALTH ACT 613, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE IMMIGRATION ACT OF 1940 AND REPUBLIC ACT 3019, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT

WHEREAS, of nearly four (4) million tourists who visited the Philippines in 2011, Chinese tourists represented 6.21 percent of the market share, which accounted for 243,137 arrivals in the country;

WHEREAS, in a letter of the Philippine Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (PCCCI), dated December 08, 2011 to His Excellency Jejomar C. Binay, Vice-President of the Republic of the Philippines, PCCCI conveyed their strong and genuine concern in the "indiscriminate and arbitrary exclusions of Chinese nationals in our international airports thereby creating issues and anxieties among Chinese nationals visiting our country as tourists and as investors;"

WHEREAS, in the letter of the Embassy of the Republic of China dated 05 January 2012, addressed to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the Embassy has called the attention of the DFA to the numerous exclusions of Chinese nationals entering the Philippines and to other complaints against some immigration officials;

WHEREAS, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Philippines has recorded more than 200 exclusion cases involving Chinese nationals with valid visas in 2011, far more than those cases relating to the citizens of other countries, raising concerns for Chinese travelers who choose the Philippines as a tourist destination;

WHEREAS, Chinese tourists were allegedly excluded and disallowed entry to the Philippines without due process using Section 29 (a) (5) of Commonwealth Act 613, otherwise known as the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940, referring to persons likely to become public charge;

WHEREAS, there were also reports that some Bureau of Immigration officers would allegedly give the "excluded Chinese tourists," a telephone number to call in case they intend to come back so that they could be escorted through immigration for a fee of \$1,000 or Php50,000.00 per tourist;

WHEREAS, Chinese tourists who allegedly avail of the escort services become undocumented aliens and allegedly receive fake Immigration cards that each costs from Php20,000.00 to Php30,000.00 and an additional cost of Php200,000.00 to Php300,000.00 to be delisted or removed from the Bureau's blacklist;

WHEREAS, the afore-mentioned allegations of extortion and corrupt practices are *flagrant violations of Republic Act 3019*, otherwise known as the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act that merit serious attention;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to look and investigate into these serious allegations of violations of the law committed by some officers of the Bureau of Immigration, to propose legislative measures to curb, if not totally rid the government of corruption;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED UNREASONABLE EXCLUSION AND OTHER ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES DIRECTED AGAINST CHINESE TOURISTS

COMMITTED BY SOME OFFICERS OF THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION, IN VIOLATION OF COMMONWEALTH ACT 613, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE IMMIGRATION ACT OF 1940 AND REPUBLIC ACT 3019, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT.

Adopted,


AQUILINO "KOKO" MARTIN L. PIMENTEL III