

SENATE

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P.S.R. No. 1040

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Introduced by **Senator Ana Theresia "Risa" Hontiveros-Baraquel**

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**RESOLUTION  
CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO  
RECENT INCIDENTS OF EXTORTION AND CORRUPTION AT THE  
BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION**

**WHEREAS**, on February 2, 2019, it was reported that lawyers Arnulfo Maminto, Alex G. Recinto, and Justin Joy Valdez had been dismissed from the Bureau of Immigration (BI) for allegedly extorting money from Chinese nationals applying for work visas in the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, these officials were assigned to BI satellite offices in SM North EDSA and SM Aura;

**WHEREAS**, the three lawyers are said to have received more than 1 Billion Pesos from unlawful activities, an amount more than sufficient to characterize such activities as plunder pursuant to Republic Act (R.A.) No. 7080;

**WHEREAS**, a few months later, on April 10, 2019, it was reported 15 South Korean nationals in Angeles, Pampanga were threatened by BI personnel with detention for overstaying unless they paid from 280,000 to 1 million pesos each, for a total amount of 9.4 million Pesos;

**WHEREAS**, the 18 BI agents involved in the Angeles extortion attempt were ordered suspended soon afterwards;

**WHEREAS**, past allegations of corruption involving BI personnel have included allowing wanted fugitives to escape the country;

**WHEREAS**, this corruption has also facilitated the indiscriminate entry of foreign workers into the country;

**WHEREAS**, from 2016 to 2018, more than half of the around 335,800 working visas and special work permits issued to Chinese nationals were for jobs in the internet gambling industry;

**WHEREAS**, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III was recently quoted as saying that the government was losing at least 3 Billion Pesos a month in tax revenue due to the failure of these workers to register with the Bureau of Internal Revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, corruption at the BI thus poses a major risk to national security and public interest.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED TO URGE THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO RECENT INCIDENTS OF EXTORTION AND CORRUPTION AT THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION.**

Adopted.

  
ANA THERESIA "RISA" HONTIVEROS-BARAQUEL  
Senator