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SENATE
P.S.R. No. 75

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED
SOCIAL NETWORKING DANGERS WITH A VIEW TO ENJOIN THE PUBLIC TO
UNDERTAKE SUFFICIENT PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST ALLEGED
ILLICIT ACTIVITIES OF SO-CALLED CYBERCRIMINAL

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 2 of the Constitution states: The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy;

WHEREAS, it has been a growing and well-known concern that social networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace, and other such sites are increasingly being targeted by cybercriminals drawn to the wealth of personal information supplied by users;

WHEREAS, it was reported that a vicious virus "Koobface" hijacks the accounts of social networking site users and sends messages steering friends to hostile sites containing malware, a malicious software often designed to infiltrate a computer system for illicit purposes;

WHEREAS, malware can be used to steal bank account data or credit card information once installed on the personal computer;

WHEREAS, another danger of social networking sites is the use of popular quizzes, horoscopes and games made available for free to users which can sometimes be used to hide links to hostile sites;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the profile of these cybercriminals has evolved from computer savvy teenagers to real cybercrime mafias especially in Russia, China, Brazil and the Ukraine operating for economic gain;

WHEREAS, social networking sites have gained a strong foothold in the Philippines such that their users' profile represents a broad demographic range in terms of age, occupation, and social status;

WHEREAS, unsuspecting users supply a wealth of personal information to social networking sites which could be accessed by cybercriminals for their illicit purposes to the detriment of the users;

WHEREAS, the public must be sufficiently warned of the dangers of social networking sites so that proper precautions may be undertaken for their own protection;

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 social networking dangers with a view to enjoin the public to undertake sufficient precautionary measures against alleged illicit activities of so-called cybercriminals.

Adopted,

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MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO