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SENATE

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

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**RESOLUTION**  
**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, TRADE AND**  
**COMMERCE, AND PUBLIC ORDER AND ILLEGAL DRUGS, TO CONDUCT AN**  
**INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EFFECTS OF THE TELEVISED**  
**HOSTAGE-TAKING INCIDENT AT THE QUIRINO GRANDSTAND**  
**TO THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT, INVESTMENT CLIMATE AND TO THE**  
**ECONOMY IN GENERAL**

*Whereas*, the prevailing peace and order situation is a prerequisite condition that makes any country attractive for investments, and allows local businesses to thrive;

*Whereas*, Article II, Sec. 5 of the Philippine Constitution states, "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy";

*Whereas*, Sec. 9 of the same Article propounds, "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

*Whereas*, a former policeman who was dismissed from the service last year hijacked a bus-load of tourists – all Chinese nationals, killing in the process eight of its passengers;

*Whereas*, the hostage drama was broadcast live by the country's major television networks, covered by foreign correspondents at the scene and beamed all over the world through CNN, BBC, Reuters, Sahara India, KBS, Channel News Asia, among others;

*Whereas*, following the incident, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has already issued a warning against travel to the Philippines, canceled planned tour groups to the islands and asked Hong Kong tourists still in the country to leave;

*Whereas*, in a statement issued by the US Embassy, the US government said it "joins many others in condemning the actions of an alleged former Philippine National Police officer who took innocent tourists hostages in an effort to redress a professional grievance";

*Whereas*, local stocks fell sharply on Tuesday as a bloody hostage-taking incident in Manila weighed down investor sentiment and escalated profit-taking pressures;<sup>1</sup>


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<sup>1</sup> "RP stocks fall sharply after hostage crisis" by Doris Dumlaog 8/24/2010, <http://businessinquirer.net/money/breakingnews/view/20100824-288519/RP-stocks-fall-sharply-after-hostage-crisis>

*Whereas*, The Chinese Embassy in Manila, said Philippine authorities must take appropriate actions in the aftermath of the hostage drama: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committees on Economic Affairs, Trade and Commerce, and Public Order and Illegal Drugs, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the effects of the televised hostage-taking incident at the Quirino Grandstand to the business environment, investment climate and to the economy in general.

Adopted,

  
MANNY VILLAR  
Senator