



SENATE 352
P.S. RES. NO. _____

INTRODUCED BY SEN. PANFILO M. LACSON

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE QUESTIONABLE GRANT OF DUAL CITIZENSHIP BY THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION (BI) TO A SYRIAN NATIONAL IN VIOLATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9225 AND ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS ALLEGEDLY IN CONNIVANCE WITH CERTAIN HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE BUREAU, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF IMMEDIATELY ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM, PROVIDING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION THAT WILL STRENGTHEN THE LAW GOVERNING THE BUREAU AND PREVENT THE REOCCURRENCE OF SIMILAR SCHEMES IN LIGHT OF ITS NATIONAL SECURITY IMPLICATION.

Whereas, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) administers and enforces the immigration, citizenship and alien registration laws of the Philippines;

Whereas, Section 3 of Republic Act No. 9225, otherwise known as the Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition Act of 2003 states that any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, *natural-born citizen* by reason of their naturalization as citizens of a foreign country are hereby deemed to have re-acquired Philippine citizenship upon taking the oath of allegiance to the Republic;

Whereas, Administrative Order No. 91, Series of 2004 designates the Bureau of Immigration (BI), in consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of the Civil Registrar-General of the National Statistics Office (NSO), as the implementing agency of RA No. 9225;

Whereas, said administrative order also authorizes the Bureau of Immigration (BI) to promulgate and issue rules and regulations to implement R.A. No. 9225 which it did by issuing Memorandum Circular No. AFF -04-01;

Whereas, according to reports, a Syrian national Mr. Nade Briek, was granted dual citizenship by the BI despite the undeniable fact that he is not a natural born citizen who lost his citizenship by reason of his naturalization in another country, one of the main requirements under Section 3 of Republic Act No. 9225;

Whereas, records will show that Mr. Briek arrived in the Philippines on February 15, 2013 and immediately filed his application for dual citizenship before the BI on March 11, 2013;

Whereas, through an undated order, Commissioner Ricardo A. David approved his application and correspondingly issued a Certificate of Re-acquisition/Retention of Philippine Citizenship in his favor;

Whereas, a careful perusal of the records, which should have been thoroughly reviewed by the Bureau of Immigration, will clearly show that the applicant is a Syrian national as his parents are both nationals and citizens of said country;

Whereas, there are allegations that money changed hands in the application, processing and approval of Mr. Briek's petition for dual citizenship;

Whereas, said anomaly came into fore only after the Department of Foreign Affairs denied the application of Mr. Briek for a Philippine passport when the latter applied for one on the ground that one of the documents presented to support said application was a fake birth certificate;

Whereas, as the primary agency implementing Republic Act No. 9225, it is troubling that the BI was duped into granting dual citizenship to the said individual or worse was in connivance with said person whose country's national/citizen is considered in the restricted category per records of the Department of Foreign Affairs; **Now therefore**,

BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the proper committees of the Senate to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation into the questionable grant of dual citizenship to a Syrian national, with the end in view of examining and auditing the cases approved by the BI and providing remedial measures that will strengthen the procedures under Republic Act No. 9225 in light of its national security implications.

Adopted,


PANFILO M. LACSON
Senator