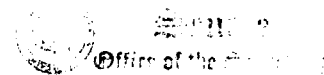
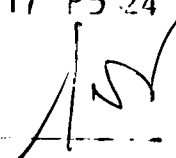


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



24 SEP 17 P5:24

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P. S. Res. No. 1200

Introduced by Senators Loren B. Legarda and Raffy T. Tulfo

RESOLUTION

URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO CERTAIN LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRIES' REPORTED ISSUANCE OF BIRTH CERTIFICATES THROUGH LATE REGISTRATION TO FOREIGN NATIONALS

1 WHEREAS, according to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) in
2 2022, 1.3 million births were registered on time, while 127,919 births were registered
3 30 days or more after the birth date;

4 WHEREAS, the issuance of birth certificates through late registration has
5 historically provided Filipinos, especially those in remote or indigenous areas, with
6 access to vital services and civil rights;

7 WHEREAS, recent reports have highlighted potential abuses of the late
8 registration system by foreign nationals, undermining its intended purpose;

9 WHEREAS, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has reported that up to
10 1,200 foreigners, believed to be Chinese nationals, have fraudulently obtained birth
11 certificates through late registration in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, since 2016, with
12 suspicions that some of these individuals have criminal records;

13 WHEREAS, the National Security Council (NSC) has previously traced the
14 issuance of birth certificates by corrupt civil registrars to foreigners, who pay a fee, as
15 a means for foreigners to subsequently obtain Philippine passports;

16 WHEREAS, the abuse of late birth registration system enables foreign nationals

1 to exploit government-issued documents for various fraudulent activities, evade
2 immigration laws and potentially engage in criminal activities;

3 WHEREAS, data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) shows an
4 alarming number of discrepancies in birth certificate registrations, including 308
5 instances of fake birth certificates submitted for passport applications between
6 January and September 2023, with six (6) of these belonging to foreign nationals who
7 were issued Philippine passports;

8 WHEREAS, the fraudulent acquisition of these documents poses a risk to
9 national security, as individuals may exploit their status to engage in espionage,
10 economic sabotage, and other criminal enterprises;

11 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to investigate the role of local government
12 units, in particular, their local civil registries, in the facilitation of these fraudulent
13 transactions, and to assess the adequacy of existing oversight mechanisms to prevent
14 the issuance of falsified documents;

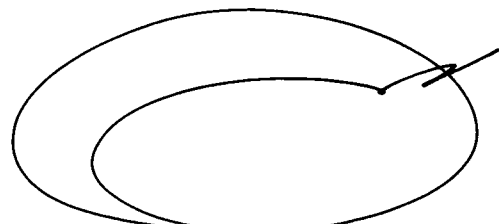
15 WHEREAS, there is also a pressing need to strengthen safeguards in the birth
16 registration process, especially for late registrations, by ensuring proper verification of
17 identity and citizenship, and to impose stricter penalties for fraudulent activities
18 involving government-issued documents: Now, therefore, be it:

19 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the appropriate
20 Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into certain local civil
21 registries' reported issuance of birth certificates through late registration to foreign
22 nationals, and to explore measures that would prevent the abuse of this system while
23 preserving the rights of legitimate Filipino citizens.

Adopted,



LOREN B. LEGARDA



RAFFY T. TULFO