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FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES
SIRVED SENATE
P.S.R. No. 351
HECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED LACK OF PROPENSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN USING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 17 provides "The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development";

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 14, Section 10 states "Science and Technology are essential for national development and progress. The State shall give priority to research and development, invention, innovation, and their utilization; and to science and technology education, training, and services. xxx";

WHEREAS, according to the World Economic Forum (WEF), the Philippines has dropped several notches in the global list of network-ready economies, lagging behind its neighboring Asian countries;

WHEREAS, in its Global Information Technology Report 2007 to 2008, the WEF stated that the country ranked 81st among 127 countries included in the survey; the Philippines placed 69th in the previous report;

WHEREAS, WEF, which is an independent international organization committed to improving the state of the world by engaging leaders in partnerships to shape global, regional and industry agendas, produced the report in cooperation with Institut Européen d'Administration des Affaires (INSEAD), which is a leading international business school;

WHEREAS, the country's Networked Readiness Index (NRI), a measure of countries' competitiveness in ICT, dropped to 3.56 percent from 4.3 percent;

WHEREAS, the NRI examines the preparedness of countries in using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) effectively on three dimensions: the general business, regulatory and infrastructure environment for ICT; the readiness of the three key stakeholder groups – individuals, businesses and governments – to use and benefit from ICT; and the actual use of the latest information and communication technologies available;

WHEREAS, the NRI uses a combination of data from publicly available sources, as well as the results of the Executive Opinion Survey, a comprehensive annual survey

conducted by the WEF with its network of Partner Institutes in the countries included in the said report; the Survey provides unique data on many qualitative institutional and business environment issues;

WHEREAS, the cross-country analysis of the drivers of networked readiness provides useful comparative information for making business decisions and additional value to governments wishing to improve their ICT preparedness;

WHEREAS, Denmark is the most networked economy in the world, followed by Sweden and Switzerland. Among the top ten, the Republic of Korea (9) and, to a lesser extent, the United States (4) post the most notable improvements (moving up 10 and 3 positions, respectively);

WHEREAS, other Southeast Asian economies were still ahead of the Philippines, with Singapore at the 5th spot, Malaysia and 26th, Thailand at 40th, Vietnam at 73rd and Indonesia at 76th:

WHEREAS, according to Global Competitiveness Network Senior Economist Irene Mia, the successful experience of the Nordic countries, Singapore, the United States or Korea shows that a coherent government vision on the importance of ICT, coupled with an early focus on education and innovation, are key not only for spurring networked readiness, but also to lay the foundations for sustainable growth;

WHEREAS, the Report has become the world's most comprehensive and authoritative international assessment of the impact of ICT on the development process and the competitiveness of nations; under the theme Fostering Innovation through Networked Readiness, this year's Report places a particular focus on the role of networked readiness in spurring innovation through topics covered in the analytical chapters;

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 alleged lack of propensity of the Philippines in using Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

Adopted,

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