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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 721

RECEIVED


INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION
URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC ORDER AND
DANGEROUS DRUGS, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN
AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RAMPANT INCIDENCE OF CELL PHONE
SNATCHING, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF INCREASING PENALTIES FOR CELL
PHONE THEFT AND REVISITING THE ANTI-FENCING LAW TO PROTECT CELL
PHONE BUYERS

Whereas, per National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) data, almost 70,000 cell phones were reported lost or stolen from 2002 to 2005;

Whereas, statistics from the Philippine National Police (PNP) showed that incidents of cellphone snatching rose by 53 percent, and robbery involving cellphones by 35 percent from 2003 to the first quarter of 2006.¹

Whereas, the NTC received a total of 813 actual cases of missing cellular phones from January to November 2009, with Metro Manila registering the highest number of cases at 785.²

Whereas, the NTC added its One-Stop Public Assistance Center receives at least 10 reports of stolen cellular phones daily.³

Whereas, based on police records, cellphone theft already accounts for over one-third of robbery cases nationwide;

Whereas, stolen phones often find their way to stores selling second-hand cellphone units, which take advantage of unsuspecting customers who are looking for low-priced alternatives that suit their budget;

Whereas, the sudden boom of the mobile phone industry opened up a new permutation of criminal activity which leads to loss of properties, and sometimes lives: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs, and Local Government to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the rampant incidence of cell phone snatching, with the end in view of increasing penalties for cell phone theft and revisiting the anti-fencing law to protect cell phone buyers.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR

¹ Task force to be formed vs cell phone snatching, by Paolo Romero, www.philstar.com, August 17, 2006

² 10 cell phones reported stolen daily in Philippines, abs-cbnNEWS.com, January 5, 2010

³ Ibid.