

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P.S.R. No. **297**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NEED TO ADDRESS THE
INCREASE OF STREET CHILDREN IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article Section 13 states: "The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* in its 3 November 2010 issue reported that according to a joint study by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), the large number of Filipino children living on the streets threatens the Philippines' ability to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

WHEREAS, the eight-fold MDGs are to: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality rates; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other disease epidemics; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop a global partnership for development;

WHEREAS, the study noted that children as young as four years old, and even younger, could be found loitering almost everywhere especially in urban areas;

WHEREAS, the study warns that if not properly addressed, proliferation of street children poses a threat to the attainment of the country's MDGs, which relate to universal primary education, reducing the child mortality rate and combating AIDS, malaria, and other infectious diseases;

WHEREAS, despite efforts of both the government and nongovernment organizations to eliminate the proliferation of street children, the National Statistical Board estimates the country's street children population at 3 percent of children aged 17 and below;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that in 2002, there were 246,011 street children all over the country, and at least 11,346 of them were in Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, although the NSB still has to come up with the latest statistics, the number of highly visible children on the streets is estimated at more than 50,000;

WHEREAS, according to UNICEF and PIDS, over 44 percent of Filipino children aged 15 and below live in poverty;

WHEREAS, according to the study, the figure, representing over 13 million children, showed an increase of about 4 percent over early 2000 data; the study also revealed that street children do not only suffer from income poverty but also from other dimensions of poverty, such as deprivations in terms of food, shelter, health, education, water and sanitation facilities, and information;

WHEREAS, the study also noted that street children are in need of special protection because they face risks and hazards while on the streets without adult supervision;

WHEREAS, the increasing number of street children should be immediately addressed by the legislature; there should be a crackdown on syndicates that use children as prostitutes, and to beg, steal, and cause damage to property;

WHEREAS, parents should likewise be sanctioned for neglect, and for exposing their children to harm by allowing them to loiter in the streets; meanwhile, those parents who, with full intent, allow their children to be used by syndicates, should be severely punished and stripped of custody of their children;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported need to address the increase of street children in the country.

Adopted,

miriam defensor santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
DCR

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