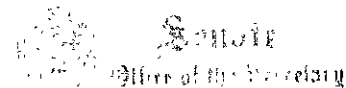


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



12 FEB -2 P1:33

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 695

11

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED TO PRIORITIZE POVERTY ALLEVIATION POLICIES
TO ADDRESS THE ALARMING INCREASE OF HUNGER INCIDENCE IN THE
COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 9 provides: "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all;"

WHEREAS, based on the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey released last 25 January 2012 and published in *Business World* last 29 January 2012, the poor people in the Philippines may have become fewer but more of them went hungry;

WHEREAS, despite the fact that self-rated poverty had plunged to 45% from 52% based on a December 3-7 nationwide poll, the SWS said that the same survey found 22.5% of the respondents claiming to have experienced having nothing to eat, up slightly from September's 21.5%;

WHEREAS, the one-point gain, it reportedly said, raised the number of families that experienced involuntary hunger to an estimated 4.5 million, from 4.1 million three months earlier;

WHEREAS, according to the SWS, hunger among self-rated poor families increased to 33.6% from 27.9% while among households rating themselves as food-poor (down to 36% from 41%), hunger also rose to 38.1% from 31.1%;

WHEREAS, severe hunger among poor families was higher at 8% from 5.5% in September, and also rose to 9.1% from 6.9% among the food-poor; meanwhile, moderate hunger, hit 25.6% from 22.4% previously among the poor, and gained to 29% from 24.2% among the food-poor;

WHEREAS, it was reported that by region, overall hunger fell in Balance Luzon and in Metro Manila, but increased in the Visayas and Mindanao;

WHEREAS, the new moderate hunger rates are allegedly higher than their 13-year averages for all areas; meanwhile, severe hunger rose in all areas except in Metro Manila, where it fell by 1.3 points to 5%;

WHEREAS, there is therefore an urgent need to prioritize poverty alleviation policies to address the increasing hunger incidence in the country;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the State to increase its investments in human capital development and pump prime the economy in order to provide jobs for the Filipinos which will enable them to feed their families;

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 need to prioritize poverty alleviation policies to address the alarming increase of hunger incidence in the country.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
MS

/dpm