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SENATE
P. S. Res No. 659

RECEIVED BY: JSV

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CASES OF SEVERE
MALNUTRITION THAT AFFLICTS CHILDREN IN THE LIGHT OF THE DEATH
OF GRADE FIVE STUDENT JONATHAN OYA IN THE PROVINCE OF
ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 14 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;¹

WHEREAS, Jonathan Oya was a malnourished Grade Five student at Glab Elementary School in the province of Zamboanga del Sur;²

WHEREAS, Jonathan Oya was determined to learn so he walks three hours a day from home to school and back, making sure that he would not miss his classes at Glab Elementary School which was also the only place where he could get a decent meal through the school's feeding program once a day;³

WHEREAS, when he had missed a day of school for the first time, which then extended to a week, the school officials of Glab Elementary School visited Jonathan Oya at his home at Cogonan village in the town of Labangan, province of Zamboanga del Sur only to find the boy too weak to stand up;⁴

WHEREAS, the school officials decided to bring Jonathan, who at the time weighed fifteen (15) kilograms, to a hospital in Pagadian City but the boy passed away two days later due to complications from severe malnutrition;⁵

¹Official Gazette: <http://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/constitutions/1987-constitution/>

²Philippine Daily Inquirer Online News: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/969718/zambo-del-surs-jonathan-oya-the-face-of-severe-malnutrition>

³Ibid

⁴Ibid

⁵Ibid

WHEREAS, according to Joel Arnejo, head of Glab Elementary School, Jonathan's case was not isolated and that there are twenty six (26) of the 154 students at Glab Elementary School suffered from severe malnutrition;⁶

WHEREAS, the Oya family lived way below the poverty line and were not a beneficiary of the Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Program (4Ps) or any other poverty-reduction program of the national government however they are included in the list of recipients of the local government's Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation Fund allocated for indigent families;⁷

WHEREAS, the passing of Jonathan Oya calls for the need to further address malnutrition of children living in remote villages by ensuring that children in such remote areas are provided proper nutrition;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the proper Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the cases of severe malnutrition that afflicts children in the light of the tragic death of Grade Five student Jonathan Oya in the province of Zamboanga del Sur.

Adopted,


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

⁶Ibid

⁷Ibid