

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 924

REC.



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Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

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**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON**  
**AGRARIAN REFORM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, WELFARE**  
**AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN**  
**INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE BRUTAL**  
**AND BRAZEN KILLING OF NINE SUGAR WORKERS IN**  
**SAGAY CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL**

1       **WHEREAS**, on October 20, 2018 at about 9:30 p.m., nine sugar  
2 workers, among them three women and two teenagers, belonging to the  
3 National Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW) were reportedly shot and  
4 burned while they were resting in their makeshift shelter;  
5

6       **WHEREAS**, the brutal and brazen killing was committed inside  
7 Hacienda Nene in Sagay City, Negros Occidental, an area the sugar  
8 farmers had allegedly occupied as part of an agrarian reform assertion  
9 campaign called *Bungkalan*;  
10

11       **WHEREAS**, the *Constitution*, in *Article XIII, Section 4* mandates  
12 the State to "undertake an agrarian reform program founded on the right  
13 of the farmers and regular farmworkers, who are landless, to own  
14 directly or collectively the lands they till or, in the case of other  
15 farmworkers, to receive a just share of the fruits thereof xxx";  
16

17       **WHEREAS**, Congress enacted *Republic Act No. 6657* or the  
18 Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law in 1988 to give life to this  
19 Constitutional mandate of distributing lands to landless farmers. This  
20 was amended in 2009 to institute some reforms and to extend the period  
21 of distribution of lands;  
22

1           **WHEREAS**, in a news report, NFSW claims that land distribution  
2 to farmers has been very slow paced with implementation only at about  
3 forty percent (40%)<sup>1</sup>;  
4

5           **WHEREAS**, while authorities are investigating the incident to  
6 hold to account the perpetrators, Congress must inquire into the root  
7 cause of the continuous quest of our farm workers for reform in the  
8 agrarian sector to address their real needs through effective legislation  
9 and also to prevent further violence and loss of lives; and  
10

11           **WHEREAS**, Congress must give the highest priority to the  
12 enactment of appropriate measures to achieve social justice, reduce  
13 economic iniquities, and to equitably diffuse wealth for the benefit of  
14 our farmers, having due regard to the rights of landowners;  
15

16           **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby  
17 resolved, to direct the Senate Committees on Agrarian Reform and  
18 Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development to conduct an inquiry, in  
19 aid of legislation, on the brutal and brazen killing of nine sugar workers  
20 in Sagay City, Negros Occidental.

*Adopted,*

  
**AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III**

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<sup>1</sup> Retrieved from <https://news.abs-cbn.com/focus/10/21/18/church-local-execs-condemn-massacre-of-negros-sugar-workers>. Last accessed on October 23, 2018.