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SENATE  
P. S. Res. No. 973

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Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III

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A RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND  
HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF  
LEGISLATION, AS TO THE CURRENT STATE OF OUR  
PRISONS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ESTABLISHING  
PRISONS IN EVERY REGION OF THE COUNTRY

1       **WHEREAS**, in 1972, *Presidential Decree No. 28 (P.D. 28)* was  
2 issued to establish seven regional prisons and convert existing national  
3 penal institutions into regular prisons and penal farms;

4  
5       **WHEREAS**, the aim of *P.D. 28* was to decongest overcrowded  
6 national prisons, reduce the number of escapees, and promote  
7 rehabilitation of convicted prisoners by bringing the convicted closer to  
8 their homes and families;

9  
10       **WHEREAS**, there are presently seven prisons housing convicted  
11 prisoners: the New Bilibid Prison (or “Bilibid” in Muntinlupa City), the  
12 Correctional Institution for Women (or “CIW” in Mandaluyong City),  
13 the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (or “Iwahig” in Puerto Princesa,  
14 Palawan), the San Ramon Prison and Penal Farm (or “San Ramon” in  
15 Zamboanga City), the Sablayan Prison and Penal Farm (or “Sablayan” in

1 Occidental Mindoro), the Davao Prison and Penal Farm (or “Davao” in  
2 Davao del Norte), and the Leyte Regional Prison (or “LRP” in Abuyog,  
3 Southern Leyte);  
4

5 **WHEREAS**, despite numerous attempts to decongest these prisons  
6 over the years, the numbers indicate that the problem has not been  
7 resolved: with 24,780 inmates, Bilibid has an occupancy rate of 246%  
8 and a congestion rate of 146%; with 2,711 inmates, the CIW has an  
9 occupancy rate of 111% and a congestion rate of 11%; with 2,372  
10 inmates, Iwahig has an occupancy rate of 245% and a congestion rate of  
11 145%; with 5,717 inmates, Davao has an occupancy rate of 253% and a  
12 congestion rate of 153%; with 2,372 inmates, Sablayan has an  
13 occupancy rate of 154% and a congestion rate of 54%; with 1,440  
14 inmates, San Ramon has an occupancy rate of 180% and a congestion  
15 rate of 80%; and with 1,664 inmates, LRP has an occupancy rate of  
16 164% and a congestion rate of 64%, bringing the average occupancy rate  
17 of our prisons to 214% and the average congestion rate to 114%<sup>1</sup>;  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, the state of our prisons and the well-documented  
20 conditions borne by the convicted over the years<sup>2</sup> make it nearly  
21 impossible to properly rehabilitate these persons and instead have the  
22 effect of promoting criminal behavior;  
23

24 **WHEREAS**, it is evident that the number of prisons must be  
25 increased on a regional basis, and existing prison facilities expanded and  
26 improved, in order to provide convicted prisoners with humane  
27 surroundings conducive to rehabilitation and to make the task of

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<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Corrections Inmate Profile as of June 30, 2017, *available at*:  
<http://www.bucor.gov.ph/BuCor%20Land%20Area.html>.

<sup>2</sup> RG Cruz, “Conditions in Bilibid sub-human, House told,” ABS-CBN News, May 31, 2011,  
*available at*:<http://news.abs-cbn.com/-depth/05/31/11/conditions-bilibid-sub-human-house-told>;  
and “Living the high life in Bilibid,” The Manila Times, December 15, 2014, *available at*:  
<http://www.manilatimes.net/living-high-life-bilibid/149153/>.

1 guarding and rehabilitating prisoners more achievable for our prison  
2 staff;

3  
4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** as it is hereby  
5 resolved to direct the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights to  
6 conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to determine the current state of  
7 our existing prisons, with the end in view of establishing prisons in  
8 every region of the country.

*Adopted,*

  
AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III