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SENATE P. S. R. No. **268**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE WORSENING HUNGER SITUATION IN MINDANAO DUE TO CONFLICT AND NATURAL CALAMITIES

WHEREAS, according to various news reports, officials from the World Food Programme (WFP) of the United Nations said that an estimated 250,000 people in Mindanao are starving and would need up to \$26 million in food and other forms of help;

WHEREAS, the officials said that these Filipinos were either uprooted from their homes by armed conflict in the region, or forced to flee by calamities;

WHEREAS, the report said that the WFP allocation of \$26 million was released in July and was used to fund feeding missions aimed to assist hunger-stricken communities, including some 40,000 malnourished children;

WHEREAS, the international agency reportedly said that at least 70 percent of its target in the anti-hunger drive is in Maguindanao; other areas include Lanao, North Cotabato, and Sultan Kudarat;

WHEREAS, the reports said that the WFP also drafted a long-term program to sustain help for people who have lost means to feed themselves;

WHEREAS, with the Philippine government's help, the report claimed that the WFP brought income-generating ventures like poultry, feed production, and rope- and fertilizer-making into the country;

WHEREAS, as food is the most basic need for every human being, there is a need to prioritize, intensify, and sustain efforts to alleviate hunger in conflict-stricken areas in Mindanao as part of the government's peace process activities;

WHEREAS, Congress should put in place urgent and meaningful legislation to solve the hunger crisis; the legislature should also draft measures that will protect funds from organizations such as the WFP, to ensure that these funds reach their rightful recipients, and that the objectives of such funding are efficiently achieved;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate committee on agriculture and food, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the worsening hunger situation in Mindanao due to conflict and natural calamities.

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

Adopted,

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