

9 MAY 28 P2:43

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1103

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE LARGE DISPARITY IN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX LEVEL AMONG PROVINCES, ESPECIALLY IN
CONFLICT AREAS IN MINDANAO

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, the latest Philippine Human Development Report (PHDR) 2008-2009 revealed that most provinces in Luzon have posted improvements in achieving human development while conflict areas in Mindanao ranked lowest in the Human Development Index (HDI); this year's PHDR was based on the data from 2004 to 2006;

WHEREAS, HDI is the basis for a country's ranking on human development by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and is divided into three components: longevity, knowledge, and standard of living;

WHEREAS, human development is being enhanced in the Philippines, which is ranked as a medium-HDI country, to increase opportunities that would lead to long and healthy lives, knowledge, and access to resources needed for a decent standard of living;

WHEREAS, according to Dr. Winfred Villamil of the Philippine Human Development Network (HDN), the top 10 provinces with the highest level of HDI are in Luzon, namely: Benguet, Rizal, Cavite, Bataan, Laguna, Pampanga, Ilocos Norte, Batanes, Nueva Vizcaya, and La Union;

WHEREAS, for the bottom 10 provinces, Villamil said that seven out of 10 provinces are in Mindanao, five of which are in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM); these include Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Maguindanao, Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Romblon, Zamboanga del Norte, Eastern Samar, Sarangani, and Masbate;

WHEREAS, the report said that in terms of life expectancy, those born in 2006 in La Union are expected to live longest at 74.6 years while those in ARMM are expected to live shorter; Tawi-Tawi's life expectancy dropped by 10.6 percent while it dropped by one percent in Sulu;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the high disparity in life expectancy observed across provinces is likely explained by disparities in access to quality health care;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that for education, the province of Benguet accounts to 76.6 percent of students who are able to complete secondary education while Sulu is at the bottom at 23.1 percent;

WHEREAS, as a whole, the high school student ratio in the country has allegedly improved by three percent, with the highest improvement coming from Abra, Guimaras and Biliran; improvements on basic education, meanwhile, were noted in Western Samar and Negros Oriental, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Batanes, Surigao del Sur and Biliran;

WHEREAS, it was alleged that for the income component, Benguet, Nueva Vizcaya, Batanes, Bataan, and Laguna have the highest real per capita incomes while those with the lowest real per capita incomes include Tawi-Tawi, Sulu, Basilan and Masbate;

WHEREAS, the report stated that Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi were among the provinces with the lowest HDIs and their levels are comparable to poor African countries such as Nigeria and Senegal, as well as Pakistan and Myanmar;

WHEREAS, it was reported that Benguet and Rizal, provinces with the highest HDIs, are comparable to Ukraine; Cebu is comparable to the Palestinian territories while Metro Manila has an HDI comparable to that of Turkey and Thailand;

WHEREAS, according to UNDP resident representative Renaud Meyer, the report calls for action that will require commitment and courage; this report should also contribute extensively to the campaign and advocacy for citizenship, good governance, change politics, and transformational leadership;

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 large disparity in human development index level among provinces, especially in conflict areas in Mindanao.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/dpm