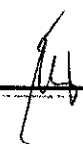


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

9 JUL 15 AIC:41

SENATE
P. S. Res. No. 1193

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile

RESOLUTION

URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN IMMEDIATE INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE PLIGHT OF HOUSEHELPERS OR KASAMBAHAY WHO WERE OR ARE BEING MALTREATED, EVEN TORTURED, BY THEIR EMPLOYERS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING REMEDIAL MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE SITUATION, AND TO FIND MEANS TO PREVENT AND TOTALLY ERADICATE SUCH INHUMANE OCCURRENCES

Whereas, it is stated in our Constitution, Article II, Section 11, that it is the policy of the state to value the dignity of every human being and guarantee full respect for human rights;

Whereas, it is also stated in Article XIII, Section 1, Paragraph 1 of the Constitution that “*The Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power of the common good;*”

Whereas, there have been media reports about house helpers or *kasambahay* who were maltreated or even tortured by their employers, and who were forced to live in inhuman conditions, as if they are lesser human beings;

Whereas, as a particular example of such reports, last July 10, 2009, ABS-CBN’s TV Patrol World featured a report on two house helpers who suffered numerous injuries allegedly due to an employer’s tendency to abuse them physically whenever they committed errors in the performance of their household chores;

Whereas, it was reported that the two *kasambahays*, Jenny, 18 years old, and her cousin Liza, seven years old, aside from being pinched, punched and kicked, were forced to drink a glass of urine as punishment by their employer, a certain Joanna Velez of Sampaloc, Manila;

Whereas, the said house helpers endured abuse in the hands of their employer for a year, and as an added insult to the grave injuries they suffered, they were not given compensation for their labors;

Whereas, clearly, the basic human rights of Jenny and Liza were gravely violated and it was only fortunate that they were rescued;

Whereas, it is unknown how many other *kasambahay* like them are suffering similar fate and abuse in silence;



Whereas, it is high time for the State to know whether occurrences of maltreatment are prevalent to the detriment of these neglected members of society, our *kasambahay*, and to find the most effective measure in order to protect them from abuse and enable them to have dignity of labor, and to find means to prevent and totally eradicate inhumane occurrences similar to that experienced by Jenny and Liza;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Senate, that the appropriate Senate Committees conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the plight of househelpers or *kasambahay* who are maltreated, even tortured by their employers, with the end-in-view of recommending immediate remedial measures to address the situation and to find means to prevent and totally eradicate such inhumane occurrences.

Adopted,



JUAN PONCE ENRILE