

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

9 DEC 15 P2:04

SENATE
P.S.R. No. 1527

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED CRIME SYNDICATES
RECRUITING MINORS AND USING THEM TO PERPETRATE THEIR CRIMINAL
ACTS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 13 provides: "The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Star*, in an article entitled "Crime Syndicates Recruiting Minors" dated 7 December 2009, warned the public that criminal syndicates are recruiting minors to commit robbery and killing them once they have accomplished their criminal purpose;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the Quezon City Police Department issued the warning after the bodies of three boys were found dumped in Barangay Commonwealth;

WHEREAS, in the same article, the investigators said that they believe the children were offered money for various tasks, not knowing they would later be silenced for knowing too much;

WHEREAS, Chief Inspector Benjamin Elenzano was quoted as saying that the slain teenagers could have been recruited as members of the Waray Waray Group;

WHEREAS, Chief Elenzano said that crime syndicates have turned to recruiting minors because they are easier to corrupt and free from criminal liability under our laws;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9344 or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006 exempts children 15 years old and below from criminal liability;

WHEREAS, the State must endeavor to guide our youth to be productive citizens of our country and protect them from being lured to lead morally corrupt lives;

WHEREAS, the State must institutionalize mechanisms for the protection of the youth particularly in depressed areas where criminals find it easier to corrupt minors;

WHEREAS, R.A. No. 9344 serves to promote the welfare of the youth and should not be used as a vehicle by criminals to take advantage of the protection the law endows to minors;

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 reported crime syndicates recruiting minors and using them to perpetrate their criminal acts.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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