



Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED NEED TO INCREASE SAFETY MEASURES WITHIN SCHOOL ZONES IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF OUR COUNTRY'S STUDENTS, IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT SHOOTING OF THREE FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 13 states: "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, various media reported that three Far Eastern University students were shot in front of their school by motorcycle-riding men;

WHEREAS, the three victims were all members of the Drums and Bugles team; two of the three victims died in the hospital;

WHEREAS, vendors in the area reportedly claimed that they did not see what happened as the street lights were not working;

WHEREAS, reports claimed that the reason for the shooting is still being investigated by the police;

WHEREAS, some media reports gave away the name of the hospital where the only survivor is recuperating;

WHEREAS, given that the lone survivor is a vital witness to the incident, it is important that apart from his identity, his whereabouts are kept secret; the police and the media should therefore refrain from giving information on the victim that could jeopardize his safety;

WHEREAS, although schools no longer exercise jurisdiction over their students outside the campus, it is still imperative that they ensure the safety of their students within a certain perimeter outside the school; hence, the State should make it mandatory for schools to install close circuit television (CCTV) cameras at their gates and other strategic places in their campus that will at least cover a 10-meter radius outside school grounds;

WHEREAS, the university belt is also infamous for several petty crimes happening in the area; it is therefore imperative for the State to protect the welfare of its youth by increasing security detail in this area;

WHEREAS, it is a must for the State to assign roving patrol police officers in every school zone to ensure peace and order;

WHEREAS, as a safety measure to prevent the abuse of students by patrol officers, the State should also study the possibility of increasing penalties for administrative and criminal offences committed by these patrol officials while on duty within the school zone, and committed in connection with their work;

WHEREAS, the State should also mandate local government units or the proper government agency, to ensure that the vicinity around schools are well-lit; street lights within school zones, should therefore always be fully functional; likewise, jeepney and bus stops should also be established, and their use, strongly enforced, to ensure a more orderly commuting system for our youth;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged need to increase safety measures within school zones in order to ensure the safety and well-being of our country's students, in light of the recent shooting of three Far Eastern University students.

Adopted,

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