



'13 OCT 16 P3:32

SENATE
P.S. Res. 298

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PEACE, UNIFICATION AND RESETTLEMENT AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR MINDANAO, ESPECIALLY ITS CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS, TO ENSURE THE MINDANAOANS' AND THE REGION'S COMPREHENSIVE INCLUSION IN THE PATH OF ACCELERATED GROWTH PURSUED BY THE PHILIPPINES

Whereas, Mindanao, with its bountiful natural resources, agricultural outputs, and diverse cultures, possesses great potential for driving accelerated, inclusive growth in the country.

Whereas, Mindanao, on the other hand, has also one of the highest levels of poverty in the country, primarily due to armed conflicts, peace and order issues, and governance challenges hampering the continued advancement of its people and the region.

Whereas, the World Bank, in its 2005 report, estimated that direct losses from internal conflicts in Mindanao from 1970 to 2001 reached \$2 billion to \$3 billion.

Whereas, the recent uprising in Zamboanga City has also displaced thousands of families and resulted in casualties and economic losses for the Mindanao region.

Whereas, the Philippine Government is pursuing the path of inclusive growth in Mindanao and the rest of the country, and it is imperative to ensure the implementation of a comprehensive and timely development program for the region.

Whereas, part of this pursuit is the proposed *Bangsamoro* political entity currently being ironed out by the Philippine Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. On October 15, 2012 or a year ago, the parties signed the Framework Agreement on the *Bangsamoro* in pursuit of elusive peace and development in Mindanao.

Whereas, it is deemed timely to review the overall development program for the Mindanao region, and accord it the necessary, full and appropriate support which it deserves as a key region of the country, and also as a fitting way to honor the slain soldiers and police in the cited recent uprising, and bestow meaning to their acts of sacrifice for the country.

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS IT HEREBY RESOLVES, To urge the Senate Committee on Local Government, Peace Unification and Resettlement and Economic Affairs, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the Philippine Government's development program for Mindanao, especially its conflict-affected areas, to ensure the *Mindanaoans'* and the region's comprehensive inclusion in the path of accelerated growth pursued by the Philippines.

Adopted,

Grace Poe
GRACE POE