



Senate
Office of the Secretary

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

'13 DEC 16 P5:35

SENATE
P.S. Res 417

RECEIVED BY: *Ji*

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE TOTAL NUMBER OF UNREGISTERED BIRTHS IN THE PHILIPPINES, UPHOLDING THE BASIC HUMAN RIGHT TO A LEGALLY-RECOGNIZED NAME AND NATIONALITY THUS PROMOTING CITIZENS' PRODUCTIVE PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF CIVIC LIFE

Whereas, Commonwealth Act Nos. 591, 3753, Presidential Decree No. 651, Republic Act No. 9048 and other laws and statutes provide for a legal framework for the registration of births in the Philippines;

Whereas, Article 7 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child provides that "the child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents";

Whereas, birth registration is a fundamental human right that can safeguard children from harm and exploitation¹;

Whereas, birth registration establishes a child's official identity, which can later open doors to entering school, finding employment, travelling abroad, running for political office and participating in other aspects of civic life²;

Whereas; birth registration is also central to a country's vital statistics, which provide the data needed for sound social and economic planning³;

Whereas, according to a study of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) released on December 11, 2013 to mark the organization's 67th anniversary titled *Every Child's Birth Right: Inequities and Trends in Birth Registration*, one in three children worldwide or nearly 230 million children in 161 countries under the age of five were not registered at birth;

¹ United Nations Children's Fund, *Every Child's Birth Right: Inequities and Trends in Birth Registration*, UNICEF, New York, 2013, p. 36

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

Whereas, UNICEF said 10 percent of children aged 0-5 years in the Philippines were not registered at birth;

Whereas, the same report noted that many families in rural areas lack the knowledge on how to register their children's names officially due to high fees and tedious process in obtaining a birth certificate and lack of understanding of the document's significance;

Whereas, in the Philippines, an estimated 7.5 million children and adults have no basic proof of identity, according to United Kingdom-based Plan International, an international development organization operating in 50 countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas to promote and protect the rights of children⁴;

Whereas, unregistered births are a symptom of the inequities and disparities in a society, with poor children from certain ethnic groups becoming the most vulnerable;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to look into the status of unregistered births in the country, in aid of legislation, aimed at working toward 100 percent birth profiling and upholding the basic human right to a legally-recognized name and nationality;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the National Statistics Office, the local governments, all private and government hospitals, clinics and birthing facilities work hand-in-hand to swiftly facilitate late registrations of birth for free, stressing the importance of birth certificates in legal transactions and pertinent to existing laws, rules and regulations.

Adopted,


GRACE POE

⁴ <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2013/03/23/923002/7.5-m-pinoys-have-no-birth-certificates>