

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 525

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND SUCH OTHER COMMITTEES DEEMED PROPER, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED EXTRAVAGANT LIFESTYLE OF RICH PRISONERS AND THE DOUBLE STANDARD APPLIED IN TREATING INMATES AT THE NEW BILIBID PRISON MAXIMUM SECURITY COMPOUND

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 27 states, "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption";

WHEREAS, on 27 January 2014, the *Philippine Star*, quoting an anonymous source from the Department of Justice, reported that "the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) maximum security compound – which houses high-risk criminals serving life sentences – has reportedly evolved into a "high-end subdivision";

WHEREAS, the same article also alleged that rich prisoners have their huts air-conditioned and enjoy expensive liquor and the company of sex workers;

WHEREAS, the same news article also alleged that the smuggling of contraband never stopped, and it has gotten worse;

WHEREAS, the report claimed that wealthy inmates were seen driving around the 12-hectare penitentiary in golf carts, electric motorcycles and tricycles;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that there are about 40 golf carts in the compound and that it is a mystery as to how they were brought in;

WHEREAS, it was alleged that if moneyed prisoners want to visit a place in the compound, they drive golf carts or electric motorcycles;

WHEREAS, the newspaper reported that rich prisoners, particularly the Chinese, have poorer inmates drive for them, and added that majority of vehicle owners are those convicted for drug trafficking and robbery;

WHEREAS, it is alleged that a double standard exists, such that poorer inmates are clad in orange prison uniforms, while rich inmates go around in branded shirts either given by visitors or shopped at the store inside the prison complex;


WHEREAS, it was reported that that the maximum security compound has its dress shops, wet and dry markets and fruit stands as well as a jazz bar, a plaza and a tennis court;

WHEREAS, the same official was quoted by the reporter to have allegedly asked, "isn't it just like a subdivision? If you are rich, you have a car or a golf cart. For poor visitors, they get tricycles," referring to the mode of transportation inside the complex;

WHEREAS, the report likewise alleged that alcohol and drugs continue to be brought into the NBP maximum security compound;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, to direct the proper senate committee, to conduct an investigation in aid of legislation, on the reported extravagant lifestyle of rich prisoners and the double standard applied in treating inmates at the New Bilibid Prison maximum security compound.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
RP

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