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Senate
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SENATE
P.S.R No. 583

RECEIVED BY: *Ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED PREVALENCE OF CHILD LABOR IN THE
PROVINCE OF BOHOL

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, Republic Act No. 9231 mandates that the government protect and remove children from the worst forms of child labor, including forced labor, child trafficking, prostitution, pornography, and use of a child for illicit activities;

WHEREAS, R.A. No. 9231 defines and prohibits the worst forms of child labor; bars children from using dangerous machinery or tools, transporting heavy loads, working underground or underwater, handling explosives or being exposed to unsafe substances; and prescribes stringent penalties for violations;

WHEREAS, *The Freeman* reported on 25 February 2014 that child labor is reportedly being practiced at the river's sand extraction business initiated by enterprising families, some of whom were earthquake victims, at Barangay Candajec, about 70 kilometers north of Tagbilaran City;

WHEREAS, adults from the barangay reportedly deny that there are children among sand gathering workers; however, they reportedly admitted that they do not have any legal permit to extract and haul river deposits;

WHEREAS, the report claimed, however, that there were two male juveniles found by *The Freeman* reporter in a site visit last week to the barangay, extracting sand and gravel and selling these to the stockyard;

WHEREAS, according to the news report, there are around 45 families from the barangay who are now dependent on manual sand extraction and stone-crushing venture;

WHEREAS, Randy (name withheld), a grade school student working as a child laborer, claimed that he works to help his family and that at times, he attends classes for only half a day so he could proceed later to his job at the river;

WHEREAS, Randy reportedly earns ₱8 per can of sand sold, but only when sales are brisk, which does not happen every day; Randy's earnings however, are way below than what his older co-workers earn from the sand extraction.

WHEREAS, according to the workers' group leader Jacinto Tisoy, 15 of the families who reside in the area, have been shoveling mineral deposits and sold these every day for two years;

WHEREAS;it was reported that another 30 families, who were from barangay Ubujan of the neighboring Tubigon town, were engaged in stone gathering and crushing with the use of hammer in the same area;

WHEREAS; Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) officer-in-charge forester Nestor Canda of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, reportedly visited the place recently to try to resolve the workers' predicament of having no permit;

WHEREAS; Canda reportedly suggested to the group's leaders to organize and avail themselves of the services of the Bohol Environment Management Office (BEMO) of the provincial government in securing permit;

WHEREAS; children in the Philippines are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including hazardous activities in agriculture and in domestic service;

WHEREAS; children are also involved in mining and quarrying, including compressor mining to extract gold, which requires them to filter pools of mud with an oxygen tube, among others;

WHEREAS; although the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino* program has expanded its child eligibility from age 14 to age 17, the program remains insufficient to address poverty and prevalence of child labor in the country;

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 prevalence of child labor in the province of Bohol.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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