

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

'14 MAY -6 P3:59

SENATE
P. S. Res. No. 639

RECEIVED BY: *f*

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, FAMILY RELATIONS AND GENDER EQUALITY, THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON MEASURES, POLICIES OR PROGRAMS TO PREVENT THE ALLEGED PROLIFERATION OF PROSTITUTION IN EVACUATION CENTERS

WHEREAS, several evacuation centers are still being called home by thousands of families affected by incidents that occurred in 2013, such as the armed conflict in Zamboanga City on September, 2013, the earthquake that shook the Visayas region on October, 2013, as well as the onslaught of typhoon Yolanda on November, 2013;

WHEREAS, there have been reports that evacuation centers established due to disasters that occurred prior to 2013 are still standing and many evacuees still consider these areas as their replacement homes;

WHEREAS, according to media accounts, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) reported that it is possible that prostitution and human trafficking has been occurring in the various evacuation centers scattered all over the country;

WHEREAS, media reports show that in some evacuation centers many of the evacuees have extracted sexually transmitted diseases and incidences of sexual exploitation have been observed;

WHEREAS, news reports show that freelance prostitution has developed in several evacuation camps, particularly during the first few months from the occurrence of a disaster, due to a lack of income for evacuees and their need to meet basic and subsistence needs such as food and medicines;

WHEREAS, the dire situation of evacuees renders them psychologically, emotionally and financially vulnerable to sexual exploitation, such as prostitution, rape and trafficking;

WHEREAS, no less than the Constitution states in Article 2, Section 11 that, "The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights;"

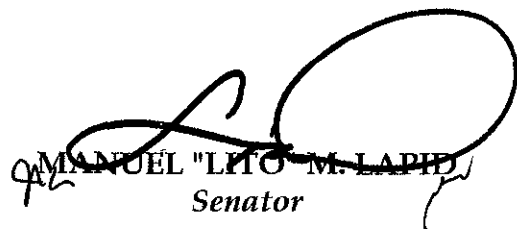
WHEREAS, the Constitution further states in Article 13, Section 1 that, "The Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the common good;"

WHEREAS, there is a need to ascertain the alleged prevalence of prostitution in evacuation centers in order to craft policies that will safeguard the security and health of women evacuees, such as through the enforcement of strict security measures within evacuation centers, the provision of livelihood projects and opportunities for evacuees to earn a decent income while living therein, or the offering of medical treatment and counselling programs for evacuees;

WHEREAS, there is a need to address this matter in order to explore legislative measures that may serve as guidelines and standard programs or procedures for the operation of evacuation centers, whether those presently established or those to be put up in future incidents of calamity or disaster;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Philippine Senate directs the Senate Committee on Women, Family Relations and Gender Equality, the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, and other appropriate Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on measures, policies or programs to prevent the alleged proliferation of prostitution in evacuation centers.

Adopted,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator