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SENATE
P.S. Res 695

RECEIVED BY *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS TO REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS' RULES OF PROCEDURE IN HANDLING INMATES THAT ARE GRANTED TEMPORARY FREEDOM FROM PRISON FOR EMERGENCY AND OTHER REASONS

WHEREAS, on the first days of June 2014, local news reported that there were high profile inmates of the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) that were granted temporary release to seek medical treatment and services in private hospitals.¹

WHEREAS, it was reported that during the month of May this year, a certain Ricardo Camata, leader of a notorious prison gang, was rushed to Metropolitan Hospital in Manila.² Another in the name of Herbert "Ampang" Colangco, a robbery gang leader, was brought to Asian Hospital in Alabang.³ A drug lord named Amin Buratong was also reported to have sought medical attention in Medical City, Pasig.⁴

WHEREAS, although it is imperative to ensure that the health of the inmates are checked and maintained, and if the NBP doctors and hospital cannot competently treat the inmates' illness, abuses of the temporary freedom to seek medical services outside prison should be strictly prohibited.

WHEREAS, what caught the attention of the authorities and the general public is that high profile inmates are given "VIP treatment." Worse, it seems that these VIP inmates can get more than what they requested during their "temporary freedom" in seeking medical attention elsewhere - allegedly, inmate Ricardo Camata had a starlet and television dancers as visitors for two successive nights, and they even spent a night at the inmate's ward.⁵

¹ Source: Another convict brought to hospital with starlet and TV dancers as guests.

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/607623/source-another-convict-brought-to-hospital-with-starlet-and-tv-dancers-as-guests> Last accessed 04 June 2014.

² BuCor admits high-profile inmates left for private hospitals.

<http://www.philstar.com/nation/2014/06/03/1330585/bucor-admits-high-profile-inmates-left-private-hospitals> Last accessed 04 June 2014.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*


⁵ *Id. at 1.*

WHEREAS, there seems to be a lapse in procedure in handling cases of inmates seeking medical attention outside the NBP. These incidents give an impression to the public that criminals put in jail still have an upper hand in some other ways over authorities.

WHEREAS, these incidents necessitate review of the Bureau of Corrections' rules of procedure, not just on seeking medical attention and services outside the NBP hospital, but also in handling inmates that are brought outside of prison for whatever reason.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs be urged to review, in aid of legislation, the Bureau of Corrections' rules of procedure in handling inmates that are granted temporary freedom from prison for emergency and other reasons.

Adopted,


GRACE POE