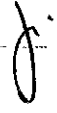


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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1290

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 RESOLUTION

2 DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
3 IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT THE PHILIPPINES DROPPED
4 IN A GLOBAL RANKING OF 133 COUNTRIES BASED ON SOCIAL PROGRESS

5 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 9 provides: “The State shall
6 promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence
7 of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate
8 social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved
9 quality of life for all”;

10 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Star* on 11 April 2015 reported that the Philippines
11 dropped in the annual Social Progress Index, a ranking of 133 countries based on social
12 progress;

13 WHEREAS, the annual ranking is published by Washington-based think tank
14 Social Progress Imperative, which defines social progress as “the capacity of a society to
15 meet the basic human needs of its citizens, establish the building blocks that allow
16 citizens and communities to enhance and sustain the quality of their lives, and create the
17 conditions for all individuals to reach their full potential”;

18 WHEREAS, the *Star* said that the Philippines slid to the 64th spot in the 2015 list,
19 down from ranking 56th in 2014;

20 WHEREAS, the country allegedly obtained a score of 65.46 index points—
21 classified as medium low—in the survey based on 52 indicators including access to
22 water, shelter, medical care, education, personal rights and freedom;

1 WHEREAS, the Philippines ranked 44th in terms of opportunity, 83rd in terms of
2 basic human needs, and 70th in terms of foundations of well-being;

3 WHEREAS, the report said that compared to countries with similar gross domestic
4 product per capita, the Philippines is relatively strong on indicators such as homicide rate,
5 traffic deaths, freedom of assembly or association, freedom over life choices, early
6 marriage, tolerance for homosexuals, years of tertiary schooling, inequality in the
7 attainment of education, and globally ranked universities;

8 WHEREAS, the country obtained poor ratings in terms of level of violent crime,
9 perceived criminality, political terror, press freedom index, premature deaths from non-
10 communicable diseases, obesity rate, water withdrawals as a percentage of resources,
11 tolerance for immigrants and discrimination, and violence against minorities;

12 WHEREAS, the reported decline in the Philippines' performance in the Social
13 Progress Index comes as the government continues to implement the conditional cash
14 transfer program as its flagship anti-poverty initiative;

15 WHEREAS, the government must take into account reports such as the Social
16 Progress Index as benchmarks for the impact of its development programs;

17 WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation must ensure that global
18 rankings based on scientific surveys are incorporated in the government's evaluation
19 mechanisms;

20 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE
21 to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the
22 report that the Philippines dropped in a global ranking of 133 countries based on social
23 progress.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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