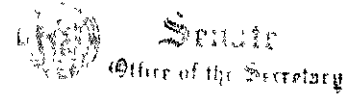


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



15 JUN 16 P3:21

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1406

RECEIVED BY: *J*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE UNITED NATIONS REPORT URGING THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT
TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF OVERCROWDING IN PRISONS

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 2 provides: "The State values the dignity
2 of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights";

3 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 8 June 2015 reported that the United
4 Nations urged the Philippine government to address the problem of overcrowding in prisons and
5 improve monitoring of places of detentions;

6 WHEREAS, the *Inquirer* was quoting the UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of
7 Torture (UNSPT), which inspected local detection facilities, and consulted law enforcers,
8 medical staff, detainees, lawmakers and civil society representatives;

9 WHEREAS, the UN subcommittee allegedly stressed the urgency of legislation that will
10 establish a national independent monitoring body or national prevention mechanism;

11 WHEREAS, such law will reportedly allow the Philippines to fulfill obligations under the
12 Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT), which it ratified in April 2012;

13 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the government improve the living conditions of
14 individuals deprived of their liberty;

15 WHEREAS, Congress must consider the recommendations of the United Nations anti-
16 torture body in drafting legislation aimed at addressing the chronic problem of overcrowding in
17 places of detention;

18 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
19 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the United Nations
20 report urging the Philippine government to address the problem of overcrowding in prisons.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
Jr