


SENATE
P.S.R. No. 1485

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Introduced by Senator **SONNY M. ANGARA**

RECEIVED BY: 

RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATE OF COMPLIANCE AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS EMPOWERING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
(PWDs) IN THE PHILIPPINES**

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Republic Act 7277 or the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons provides that, “[T]he State shall adopt policies ensuring the rehabilitation, self-development and self-reliance of disabled persons. It shall develop their skills and potentials to enable them to compete favorably for available opportunities”;

WHEREAS, Section 2 of RA 7277 further states that, “To facilitate integration of disabled persons into the mainstream of society, the State shall advocate for and encourage respect for disabled persons. The State shall exert all efforts to remove all social, cultural, economic, environmental and attitudinal barriers that are prejudicial to disabled persons”;

WHEREAS, according to the latest data from the Philippine Statistics Authority, there were over 1.4 million persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the Philippines or 1.57 percent of the country’s population;

WHEREAS, a Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) 2008 and 2010 survey on PWDs showed that there is low awareness on the Magna Carta for PWDs given that only about three in 10 PWDs in the rural areas are aware of any policy that concerns them, while in the urban areas, awareness rate is at 67 percent;

WHEREAS, Republic Act 9442 provides for a 20-percent discount for PWDs on land, air, sea transportation, food and medicines, medical and dental services, hotels, sports and other recreational centers; a 5-percent discount on groceries and basic commodities; priority and express lanes in all commercial and government establishments; and, priority access to government-mandated assistance projects, scholarship and livelihood opportunities;

WHEREAS, the same PIDS survey showed that because of low awareness, PWDs also have very low participation in discount privileges that the law mandated mainly because they do not have the PWD ID and simply because they are not able to go out;

WHEREAS, based on the Philippine Registry for Persons with Disability of the Department of Health, there are only 25,887 registered PWDs with IDs or a mere 2 percent of the total PWD population due to lack of necessary logistics of issuing offices such as the city and municipal social welfare development;

WHEREAS, the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) reported that out of 1,200 local government agencies that was screened nationwide in 2014, only 40 agencies passed the criteria set for the minimum requirement, such as the installation of ramps, facilities and other devices that can help accommodate PWDs, provided under the Accessibility Law or Batas Pambansa 344;

WHEREAS, despite the implementation of RA 10524, which mandates all government agencies and offices to reserve at least one percent of all positions for PWDs, majority of PWDs in both rural and urban areas are considered engaged in vulnerable employment;

WHEREAS, another PIDS survey on PWDs' labor force participation showed that the proportion of employed PWDs in the urban area is slightly higher (58.3%) than that in the rural area (41.9%);

WHEREAS, nearly half of the employed PWDs in the rural areas are laborers or unskilled workers, specifically helpers, construction workers, hand launderers, ice vendors, among others, while in the urban area, one-third of the employed PWDs are classified under technicians and associate professionals which include masseur, real estate broker, sales agent, artist/musician, sales consultant, barangay affairs worker, computer technician, among others;

WHEREAS, based on the 2014 Department of Education data, there are 420 special education (SPED) centers nationwide and 200 public schools offering a SPED program but without a center, totaling 620 out of 34,000 public elementary schools nationwide;

WHEREAS, in a bid to further expand the avowed accessibility of Philippine education, various bills were filed in the Senate seeking for the establishment of inclusive education learning resource centers for children and youth with special needs across the country;

WHEREAS, the Philippines adopted the UN initiative declaring 2013-2022 as the Decade of PWDs, requiring governments to ensure a disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and management, as part of our country's continuing commitment under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability;

WHEREAS, the NCDA reported that during typhoons Sendong and Yolanda, 80 percent of PWDs did not receive appropriate interventions from concerned government agencies because responders did not know how to respond to PWD needs;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Philippine Senate to direct the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the state of compliance and implementation of laws empowering PWDs in the country and identify the gaps and necessary measures that can be taken to ensure that they are provided with opportunities that will enable them to develop their potential and become fully participative members of society.

Adopted,



SENATOR SONNY ANGARA