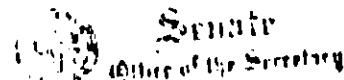



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )



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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1651

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE  
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
ON THE RECENT COMMISSION ON AUDIT REPORT THAT WESTERN VISAYAS  
REGION HAS SEVEN CONGESTED AND SIX EMPTY JAILS

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 11 provides: "The State values the  
2 dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights";

3 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Star* on 4 October 2015 reported that Western Visayas has  
4 seven detention facilities that are overpopulated by 393 percent each, and six others that are  
5 unused;

6 WHEREAS, the *Star* was quoting a recent Commission on Audit (COA) report, which  
7 discovered the unique situation in Western Visayas jails;

8 WHEREAS, the COA said that the overpopulated detention facilities are found in  
9 Dumangas, Iloilo City, Guimbal, and Pototan, all in Iloilo; Binalbagan and Isabela, both in  
10 Negros Occidental, and Jordan in Guimaras;

11 WHEREAS, state auditors claimed that the facilities, owned by the local government, can  
12 accommodate up to 189 inmates each, yet these hold up to 579 individuals;

13 WHEREAS, the COA report said there were also six unused jail facilities in the towns of  
14 Leon, Maasin, and New Lucena, all in Iloilo; Libertad in Antique, and Jordan and Nueva  
15 Valencia, in Guimaras;

16 WHEREAS, state auditors also claimed the government spent ₱3.294 million to construct  
17 these unused facilities;

18 WHEREAS, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) officials reportedly  
19 said they lack manpower to manage the jails;

20 WHEREAS, the State should develop effective and efficient measures to deal with the  
21 chronic problem of congestion in jails;

1           WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct  
2 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the recent  
3 Commission on Audit report that Western Visayas region has seven congested and six empty  
4 jails.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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