



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 216

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Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO ADDRESS POVERTY AND PROMOTE INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported on October 27, 2016, that the poverty incidence among Filipinos for the full year 2015 declined from 26.3% in 2009 and 25.2% in 2012 to 21.6% in 2015. The decrease in poverty incidence translates to approximately 1.4 million less poor Filipinos in 2015 compared to 2009;¹

WHEREAS, according to the statement released by the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) on the same date, this decline in poverty incidence meets the target set by the government in the 2011-2016 Philippine Development Plan. NEDA stated that the "significant decline" was brought about by "a generally low and stable inflation, improved incomes, and higher employment rates in the period." The agency further noted that the poverty reduction between 2012 and 2015 could have been even faster if not for major shocks experienced by the country brought about by typhoons and the El Niño phenomenon;²

WHEREAS, the PSA report revealed that along with the reduction of poverty incidence among Filipino families by 3.6 percentage points from 2012 to 2015, poverty incidence among families also went down by 3.2 percentage points during the same period, from 19.7% in 2012 to 16.5% in 2015. Moreover, the subsistence incidence among Filipino families, or the proportion of Filipino families in extreme poverty, declined by 1.8 percentage points, from 7.5% in 2012 to 5.7% in 2015;

WHEREAS, referring to the data from PSA, the NEDA statement described the 2015 poverty incidence rate among families as a "record-low," comparing it to previous rates since 2006. In addition, it noted that the country's subsistence incidence was reduced by more than half as of 2015, meeting the target of

¹ <https://psa.gov.ph/poverty-press-releases>

² <http://www.neda.gov.ph/2016/10/27/statement-on-full-year-2015-official-poverty-statistics-as-delivered-by-dir-reynaldo-r-cancio-of-neda/>

cutting extreme poverty by more than half under the first of the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs);

WHEREAS, according to NEDA's statement, one of the main factors for the significantly lower poverty figures is the increased budget given for social development programs of the government targeting the country's poor. In particular, the broad implementation of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program accorded beneficiaries of the conditional cash transfers with protection from shocks, spurred greater economic activity in poor communities, and encouraged the diversification of their sources of livelihood;

WHEREAS, the NEDA statement expressed government's commitment to not only to continue its pursuit of a major anti-poverty agenda, but also to elevate and fast track developments by focusing on strategies to address inequality across sectors and regions, as well as the problem of unemployment;

WHEREAS, our national leaders must establish a policy direction that will build on, rather than reverse, the notable gains and achievements from the previous period in addressing poverty in the country and promoting inclusive growth;

WHEREAS, the formulation of the new Philippine Development Plan for 2017-2022 should take into consideration an objective review of past policies and programs, recognizing not only those that need to be improved or changed but also those that have been proven effective and should thus be continued and supported;

WHEREAS, the various government agencies developing and implementing anti-poverty policies and programs should be aligned in terms of their specific plans and directions moving forward. At the same time, government's budgeting process should reflect and support the government's plans for poverty reduction and inclusive growth;

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Philippine Senate to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the national government's plans to address poverty and promote inclusive growth in the country.

Adopted,

