

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
2004 SEP 13 12:32

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SENATE
P.S.R. No. **88**

RECEIVED BY: _____ **C**

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND ILLEGAL DRUGS AND THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF MANY FILIPINO CHILDREN IN THE DRUG TRADE

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State to safeguard the integrity of its territory and the well-being of its citizenry particularly the youth from the harmful effects of dangerous drugs on their physical and mental well-being, and to defend the same against acts or omissions detrimental to their development and preservation;

WHEREAS, it was reported in *Today* dated 13 August 2004 that the International Labor Organization (ILO) raised concerns over the involvement of many Filipino children in the drug trade;

WHEREAS, the same newspaper reported that in the National Conference on Children In Drugs, ILO Chief Werner Blenk announced that children in prostitution, children in pornography, children working on the streets, children in deep-sea fishing, and children in the construction sector are examples of children known to be highly vulnerable to drug use;

WHEREAS, drug use is often the stepping stone to children's greater involvement in selling, distribution and production of drugs;

WHEREAS, a study entitled "Working Children in Drugs in the Philippines" shows that many children users this year started younger (12-15 years old) compared to 1999 (15-17 years old);

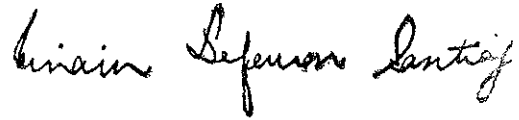
WHEREAS, the same study indicates that the most commonly used drug remains to be metamphetamine hydrochloride or "shabu," and younger children are starting to become involved not just as users, but as traders, delivering drugs to customers, since they look less suspicious to authorities;

WHEREAS, another study conducted by ILO shows that the drug trade in the Philippines has now become a family business among poor communities in Metro Manila, with young children comprising a high percentage of the workforce;

WHEREAS, to determine if legislation is necessary to further promote and protect the welfare of the Filipino children and maintain public order, an inquiry be conducted into the matter.

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs and the Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the alleged involvement of many Filipino children in the drug trade.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Miriam Defensor Santiago".

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO