

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

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SENATE

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P.S. Res. No. 113

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND ILLEGAL DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE CONDITION OF DETENTION FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AMIDST REPORTS OF HARSH LIVING CONDITIONS WITH THE END VIEW OF RECOMMENDING MEASURES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE A HUMANE LIVING CONDITION FOR ITS INMATES

WHEREAS, Article 10, Paragraph 1 of the United Nation Convention on Civil and Political Rights, to which the Philippines is a signatory, provides that, "All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person." Paragraph 3 of the same further provides that, "The penitentiary system shall comprise treatment of prisoners the essential aim of which shall be their reformation and social rehabilitation;"

WHEREAS, under the present detention system, there are three agencies in-charged with detention facilities. The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology supervises district and city jails, the provincial government takes care of provincial jails and the Department of Justice (DOJ) handles the national penitentiary;

WHEREAS, Philippine prison conditions are harsh. Prisons are overcrowded, have limited sanitary facilities, and provide prisoners with an inadequate diet;

WHEREAS, BJMP alone caters to a total of fifty-five thousand three hundred fifty-seven (55,357) inmates with an average monthly increase in jail population of 1.08%;

WHEREAS, the funds provided for prisoners' subsistence allowance is P505.5M, which is only good for 39,569 inmates at P35.00 per day per inmate. Thus prison inmates often depend on their families for food because of the insufficient subsistence allowance;

WHEREAS, the subsistence allowance, meager as it is, is allegedly still subjected to graft and corruption by detention facility officials who scrimp on resources by illegal cutback, pocketing the differential thereof. It was reported that in Manila City Jail, where there are 5,354 inmates, the subsistence allowance of P33.00 per day per inmate is further reduced P15.00 per day per inmate. The cutback amounting to P2,650,230.00 a month allegedly finds its way to the facility warden's pockets who claims sharing the same with the BJMP director;

WHEREAS, overcrowding and poor condition in jails are believed to be among the causes of the spread of diseases among inmates. It was reported that at least 26 inmates at the Quezon City Jail have tuberculosis, 5 were

diagnosed this month, and 2 died last month. The Quezon City Jail, a 300-square meter facility built to hold only 400 inmates, is currently servicing a population of more than 3,000 prisoners;

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation on the condition of detention facilities throughout the country amidst reports of harsh living conditions with the end view of recommending measures as may be necessary to ensure a humane living condition for its inmates.

Adopted,


MANUEEL B. VILLAR, JR.
Senator