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FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session

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SENATE

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RECEIVED BY: 14

P. S. Res. No. <u>225</u>

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE VIABILITY OF PRIVATIZING THE JAIL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DECONGESTING THE JAILS IN OUR COUNTRY AND ENSURING A MORE HUMANE LIVING CONDITIONS FOR OUR PRISONERS AND PROVIDING AN ADEQUATE REHABILITATIVE FACILITIES FOR OUR INMATES

WHEREAS, as one of the five pillars of the Criminal Justice System in the country, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology was created to address growing concerns on jail management and penology in the country;

WHEREAS, as provided for under R.A. No. 6975, the BJMP is mandated to take operational and administrative control over all city, district and municipal jails which number at 1,132. Of this number, only 417 comprising two (2) female dormitories, two (2) youth centers, 152 district jails, 84 city jails and 177 municipal jails are fully manned by the Jail Bureau, leaving 63% or 715 jails still being manned by the PNP;

WHEREAS, to date, our government agencies continue to find ways and means to solve jail congestion or over-crowding of our jail facilities in the country;

WHEREAS, our country's prison system has not been spared the problems of hunger, poverty and congestion. Of these problems, congestion is the most serious. Statistics show that we have extreme congestion in the various city jails of Metro Manila. The Quezon City Jail is congested by 295 percent, the Correctional Institute for Women by 95 percent, the Manila City Jail by 195 percent, the Caloocan City Jail by 94 percent, the Las Pinas City Jail by 259 percent, Camp Karingal Female Dormitory by 197 percent, the National Bilibid Prisons Maximum Security Jail by 30 percent and the Parañaque City Jail by 132 percent;

WHEREAS, according to a study on jail conditions in the country commissioned by the Supreme Court, the number of prisoners in the country increases by 12 percent every year, but the BJMP budget had not gone up in the past years;

WHEREAS, the United Nations' standard for space allocation per inmate is three (3) square meters per one (1) inmate;

WHEREAS, cramped, dilapidated and congested jail facilities remains a problem in our country and prisoners have no choice but to stay in these facilities, a situation that allows the quick spread of diseases like boils and tuberculosis;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to find alternative and innovative ways to solve the perennial problem of antiquated, dilapidated and over-congested jails in our country;

WHEREAS, there is a need to study the financial and economic viability of allowing the private sector to manage our jails in the hope of providing a more humane living conditions for our prisoners and inmates;

WHEREAS, the concept of privatizing the operation and management of our jails is envisioned as a means to unload our LGUs with the perennial obligation of having to put up jail facilities due to the ever increasing jail population in the country;

WHEREAS, Congress should address this problem through the enactment of laws that will alleviate the congestion of our various jails in the country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED to direct the appropriate Committees in the Senate to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the viability of privatizing the jail management system in the country, with the end in view of decongesting the jails in our country and ensuring a more humane living conditions for our prisoners and providing an adequate rehabilitative facilities for our inmates.

ADOPTED,

MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID Senator