

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

8 APR 15 P 1:33

SENATE  
P.S.R. No. 347

RECEIVED BY: [Signature]

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED INCREASE IN POVERTY  
INCIDENCE IN THE CORDILLERA REGION

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 9 provides “The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all”;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 121, which was issued in January 1987, created the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) as the policy-making and coordinating body of the decentralized Philippine Statistical System;

WHEREAS, the NSCB has reportedly stated that 28% of the total number of families in Cordillera region are considered poor;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8425, otherwise known as the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act, dated 11 December 1997, states that the “poor” refers to individuals and families whose income fall below the poverty threshold as defined by the government and/or those that cannot afford in a sustained manner to provide their basic needs of food, health, education, housing and other amenities of life;

WHEREAS, according to news reports from *Manila Bulletin*, the country’s 7.3 percent growth rate last year and the implementation of poverty-alleviation projects have not helped improve the poverty situation in the Cordillera in the past three years;

WHEREAS, this assessment loomed after it was reported that the poverty incidence in the Cordillera has worsened, indicating that the benefits of the country’s high growth rate has not trickled down to the countryside;

WHEREAS, “poverty incidence” refers to the proportion of families/individuals with per capita income/expenditure less than the per capita poverty threshold to the total number of families/individuals;

WHEREAS, the NSCB’s computation of the annual per capita threshold indicated that the poverty incidence and magnitude of poverty has seemingly gone from bad to worse;

WHEREAS, Abra registered the highest number of poverty incidence with 22,484 poor families; Kalinga came in second with 16,113, followed by Mountain Province with 14,254; Apayao, 12,928; Ifugao, 11,082; and Benguet with 10,990 poor families;

WHEREAS, two Cordillera provinces, Apayao, which recorded 78.5 percent poverty incidence, and Abra which had 50.1 poverty incidence, were included in the list of 10 poorest provinces in the country;

WHEREAS, the NSCB statistics indicated the number of poor families in the Cordillera has increased from 72,040 in 2003 to 87,050 in 2006; the statistics likewise indicated that 28.8 percent of the region's total number of families is living under the poverty threshold compared to 25.8 percent in 2003;

WHEREAS, "poverty threshold" refers to the minimum income/expenditure required for a family/individual to meet the basic food needs, which satisfies the nutritional requirements for economically necessary and socially desirable physical activities;

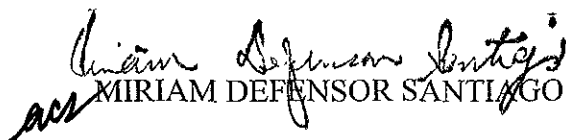
WHEREAS, the Cordillera poverty threshold is pegged at P16,810 income per person annually, one of the highest in the country;

WHEREAS, NSCB ranking shows that the 10 poorest provinces are Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga del Norte, Maguindanao, Apayao, Surigao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Northern Samar, Masbate, Abra, and Misamis Occidental;

WHEREAS, the national government has been supposedly pouring funds on the Cordillera in an effort to speed up development in the region; most of the funds are allotted for the rehabilitation of vital roads to improve transportation;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged increase in poverty incidence in the Cordillera region.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/fldp