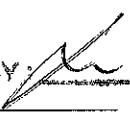


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 AUG 31 12:29

SENATE
P. S. R. No: 151

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED TO CREATE
MEASURES THAT WILL ADDRESS THE DIMINISHING NUMBER OF FIRE
FIGHTERS IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 18 states: "The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare";

WHEREAS, GMA Network's news program, *24 Oras*, reported that a large number of firefighters leave government service to pursue higher paying jobs;

WHEREAS, according to the report there are currently only 2,500 fire fighters to service two million people in the National Capital Region (NCR) although there should at least be one fireman for every 2000 people; hence, the NCR alone already lacks 5,000 fire fighters;

WHEREAS, in Quezon City, 20 fire fighters have filed for early retirement, and in NCR, 125 have already left the service this 2010;

WHEREAS, the report featured a fire fighter who served for 22 years but opted for early retirement because of the low pay; he allegedly earned around P26,000 monthly without the deductions; the fire fighter, expressing dismay and sadness that although he loved his job very much, had to find a higher paying job in order to cope with the rise in the cost of living;

WHEREAS, an entry level fire fighter earns as low as P12,000 per month; the report stated that from this amount, 12 deductions are made, with income tax as the biggest deduction, resulting to a firefighter taking home roughly around P1,500 every pay day;

WHEREAS, Senior Superintendent Pablito Cordeta, NCR director of the Bureau of Fire Protection, expressed concern that if the trends continues, the fire protection bureau will be undermanned;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Fire Protection is under the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG); the DILG should therefore create a study and submit to the Senate its recommendations on how to remedy the diminishing number of fire fighters who leave the service to look for or accept higher paying jobs;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Local Government to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the need to create measures that will address the diminishing number of fire fighters in the country.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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