

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

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 170

RECEIVED BY:                     

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN  
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE COUNTRY'S DISMAL  
PERFORMANCE IN ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS  
(MDGs) PARTICULARLY IN POVERTY REDUCTION AND MATERNAL HEALTH  
IMPROVEMENT

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, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 12 further mandates: "The State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution. It shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception. The natural and primary right and duty of parents in the rearing of the youth for civic efficiency and the development of moral character shall receive the support of the Government";

WHEREAS, based on a report released by the Overseas Development Institute and the United Nations Millennium Campaign which was published in the Abs-Cbn news website, the Philippines still has much work to do in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly in reducing poverty;

WHEREAS, the list of MDGs is a set of time-bound, concrete and specific development goals that 189 leaders worldwide committed to achieve by 2015 and ending extreme poverty and hunger comes first;

WHEREAS, the other key goals include achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability, and developing a global partnership for development;

WHEREAS, government data revealed that poverty incidence among population in the Philippines increased to 32.9% in 2006 from 30% in 2003, with the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao posting the highest incidence at 61.8%; poverty incidence among families also worsened from 24.4% in 2003 to 26.9% in 2006;

WHEREAS, with the aftermath of the global economic slowdown, typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng in 2009, and the El Nino phenomenon, a further worsening of poverty is anticipated in the 2009 poverty estimates;

WHEREAS, another MDG where the Philippines is lagging is improving maternal health;

WHEREAS, according to the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation Inc. (PCLPD), the maternal mortality ratio continues to worsen with 162 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births; eleven Filipino women die every 24 hours from pregnancy and childbirth complications;

WHEREAS, according to the National Demographic and Health Survey, the country has made significant progress in reducing child mortality; infant and under-five mortality rates have been steadily decreasing since 1990;

WHEREAS, the infant mortality rate in 2008 was 25 per 1,000 live births, very nearly closing the gap with the target of reducing infant deaths to 19 by 2015 and the country had also consistently managed to bring the infant mortality numbers down from 80 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 34 deaths in 2008;

WHEREAS, due to the fact that it was off track with several MDGs, the Philippines did not make it to the list of top 20 countries cited for their overall progress in achieving the MDGs;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for a stronger government commitment plus a pro-active and sustained nationwide advocacy to keep government actions and intentions aligned with the MDGs;

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 country's dismal performance in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) particularly in poverty reduction and maternal health improvement.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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