

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines

Senate

Pasay City

Sixteenth Congress

Second Regular Session



RESOLUTION No. 70

RESOLUTION URGING THE ELECTED LEADERS OF THE COUNTRY AND OUR PEOPLE THEMSELVES. TO HEED THE CALL OF POPE FRANCIS TO LIVE SIMPLY AND IN *“OUTSTANDING HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND COMMITMENT TO THE COMMON GOOD”* SO THAT TOGETHER, WE CAN DO JUSTICE TO EVERYONE AND SERVE THE LEAST OF OUR BRETHREN IN COMMEMORATION OF THE *“YEAR OF THE POOR”*

WHEREAS, Pope Francis came to the Philippines for an Apostolic Visit from January 15 to 19, 2015, with the theme *“Mercy and Compassion,”* primarily to comfort the victims of Super-typhoon *“Yolanda”*;

WHEREAS, a reformer who is not afraid to shake things up, Pope Francis chooses to live simply as is manifested, among other things, by the emblems of his office that he wears at public functions like the silver pectoral cross and the silver papal ring instead of the gilded symbols of the papacy that others before him preferred;

WHEREAS, true to form, Pope Francis even requested the organizers of his Philippine trip to remove posters depicting his face along the roads of typhoon-ravaged Leyte, and to replace the posters with portraits of our Lord Jesus Christ, in order to emphasize that the focus of the event should be Our Lord Jesus Christ, and not the Pope;

WHEREAS, during the January 16 Welcome Ceremony at the Malacañang Palace, Pope Francis rode in a humble car instead of a flashy one, and in that event, his humility was magnified when the television cameras caught the Pope opening the door of the car himself before the protocol officers could do it for him;

WHEREAS, the call of the Pope for all of us to live simply is ever more relevant as the Philippines faces the challenges of achieving inclusive growth which, despite the sincere efforts of the government today, still excludes a significant percentage of our population who continue to live in poverty and want;

WHEREAS, recognizing the role of our political leaders in preserving the rich human and natural resources with which God has blessed this country and their critical role in marshalling the moral resources needed to face the demands of the present and to pass on to coming generations a society of authentic justice, solidarity, and peace, Pope Francis, in his speech delivered at the Malacañang Palace, urged them to be *"outstanding for honesty, integrity and commitment to the common good"*;

WHEREAS, in the same speech, Pope Francis also challenged everyone, at all levels of society, *"to reject every form of corruption which diverts resources from the poor"*;

WHEREAS, the year 2015 has been declared by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) as the "Year of the Poor" which is most relevant considering that the poverty incidence in the Philippines, based on the 2014 report of the Philippine Statistics Authority, has stayed at around 25 percent since 2003:

WHEREAS, in a population of 100 million people, that would translate into some 25 million poor Filipinos who are marginalized, robbed of their dignity, and stripped of their basic human rights;

WHEREAS, to respond positively to the papal challenge for us to live simply, it behooves our political leaders to show the way by their living with honesty, integrity and commitment to the common good so that our nation's resources are channeled properly to benefit the people, especially the poor, in a culture where the human rights and dignity of everyone are cherished and respected, and justice is done to them whatever their station in life may be:

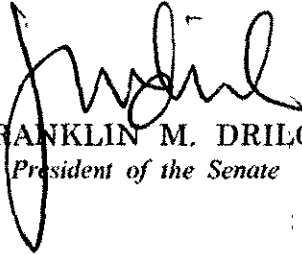
WHEREAS, as we join in the celebration of the "Year of the Poor", may our legislators, inspired by the theme of the Papal Visit, "Mercy and Compassion", and by example of Pope Francis himself, the champion of the poor, pass more laws that will benefit the common good and uplift the poor and underprivileged;

WHEREAS, the common good that is envisioned in the herein Resolution may only be achieved when the rest of our people are prepared to share in this gargantuan effort: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To call on the elected leaders of the nation and on the people themselves to heed the call of Pope Francis "to live simply and be outstanding for honesty, integrity and


commitment to the common good" so that together, we will build a just nation in the service of our people, especially the least of our brethren, as we commemorate the "Year of the Poor."

Adopted,



FRANKLIN M. DRILON
President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on January 21, 2015.



OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate

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