


9 JUL 23 P 3:42

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1218

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES AGAINST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES DUE TO THE UNCHECKED VIOLATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, OR THE MAGNA CARTA FOR THE DISABLED PERSONS (AS AMENDED BY R.A. 9442), AND BATAS PAMBANSA NO. 344

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a signatory of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities since 2007, and ratified it in 2008;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7277, or the Magna Carta for the Disabled Persons (as amended by R.A. 9442), and Batas Pambansa No. 344 protect the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs) of access to buildings and information, among others;

WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin*, in its 12 June 2009 issue, reported that despite the promulgation of such laws, Gigi Ruiz of the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) claims that PWDs continue to experience the violation of their rights and suffer discrimination due to the lack of structures and features for them to move or work independently;

WHEREAS, it was reported that Ruiz said that the lack of ramps to access buildings and absence of sign language features in television show are just few examples of the discrimination PWDs experience everyday;

WHEREAS, the same article reports that Jaime Silva, chairman on accessibility of the United Architects of the Philippines, said that many of the country's establishments have yet to comply with Batas Pambansa 344, which aims to enhance mobility of PWDs by requiring certain buildings, institutions, establishments to promote the rights of disabled persons through provisions like ramps, sidewalks, railings, parkings, and signages, among others;

WHEREAS, Silva further explained that while some buildings or shopping malls have ramps, not many have installed double hand grabs, that most of establishments used 2.5-meter and 4-foot parking space despite the 3.70-meter requirement, and that only a few of the buildings use signs particularly in toilets and parking lots;

WHEREAS, there is a need for the government to renew and revitalize its efforts to provide for the needs of PWDs for access and information in order for them to fully participate and contribute their best efforts to society;

WHEREAS, it appears that government institutions and private enterprises have been undermining the objectives of laws that protect the rights of PWDs; legislating stiffer penalties for noncompliance, stricter monitoring procedures, and amendments in

the Building should be considered in order to ensure that PWDs receive what the law intends;

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 discriminatory practices against persons with disabilities due to the unchecked violations of Republic Act No. 7277, or the Magna Carta for the Disabled Persons (as amended by R.A. 9442), and Batas Pambansa No. 344.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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