

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

Secretary

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 883



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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 NEED TO ENACT A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL  
FOOD POLICY TO ADDRESS THE ALARMING INCREASE OF MALNUTRITION  
AMONG FILIPINO CHILDREN

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, according to the 11 October 2012 article in the Philippine Star, the United Nations has estimated that six million Filipino children are malnourished, 60,000 of them are vulnerable to sexual exploitation, while at least 66 percent under the age of six do not have childcare;

WHEREAS, based on the Social Weather Stations (SWS) third quarter findings, 21 percent or at least 4.3 million households experienced having nothing to eat in the last three months, up from 18.4 percent in May; this was due to an 18 percent increase in moderate hunger, which is defined as experiencing having nothing to eat only once or a few times;

WHEREAS, the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) reportedly expressed concern over the rising malnutrition cases in calamity-devastated communities after the onslaught of typhoon "Sendong" last year;

WHEREAS, according to Abdul Alim, Unicef country representative, malnutrition has long been a serious concern in Mindanao, where a significant number of children are already undernourished and the typhoon worsened the situation;

WHEREAS, based on the United Nations report entitled, "The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012", almost 870 million people in the world, or one in eight, are suffering from chronic malnutrition; 852 million of these people live in developing countries in Asia and Africa;

WHEREAS, the report strongly indicated that the world is still short of achieving its Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in terms of food and nutrition;

WHEREAS, the report further estimated that if the average annual hunger reduction in the past 20 years continues through to 2015, the percentage of undernourishment in the developing countries would reach 12.5 percent, which is still above the MDG target of 11.6 percent;

WHEREAS, the report suggested adopting a twin-track approach based on support for economic growth, including agriculture growth involving smallholders, and safety nets for the most vulnerable;

WHEREAS, higher priority must be given to getting quality nutrition to prevent malnutrition from co-existing with obesity and non-communicable diseases;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the State to craft a national food policy addressing this issue and call for the full and active participation of all concerned, including those most vulnerable to hunger;

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 need to enact a comprehensive national food policy to address the alarming increase of malnutrition among Filipino children.

Adopted,

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/dpm