

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

Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 81

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[Signature]

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALARMING INCREASE OF INCIDENTS OF
INCEST IN THE COUNTRY WHICH CAN BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE
FEMINIZATION OF LABOR MIGRATION

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, Republic Act 8042 also known as the Migrant Workers Act, Article 2(c) states: "While recognizing the significant contribution of Filipino migrant workers to the national economy through their foreign exchange remittances, the State does not promote overseas employment as a means to sustain economic growth and achieve national development. The existence of the overseas employment program rests solely on the assurance that the dignity and fundamental human rights and freedoms of the Filipino citizens shall not, at any time, be compromised or violated";

WHEREAS, based on the 5 November 2010 report of the *Philippine Star*, there has been an alarming increase of incest incidents in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, in 2009, statistical data from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) revealed that 33 percent of the total child abuse incidents were incest; Region IX (Zamboanga Peninsula) had the most number of reported incest with 90 cases followed by Region VII (Central Visayas) with 82; Region III, 60; Region II (Cagayan Valley) and National Capital Region with, 50; and Region I (Ilocos Region) with 49;

WHEREAS, according to Atty. Katrina Legarda, legal consultant of the Child Protection Unite (CPU), this disturbing phenomenon of the girl-child being turned into substitute spouse has been happening in our country along with the feminization of labor migration since women now comprised 70 percent of Filipino workers deployed abroad;

WHEREAS, CPU is a Manila-based organization composed of child protection practitioners committed to provide the highest clinical standards of care for abused children;

WHEREAS, the increase of incest incidents could be attributed to the increasing number of women working overseas, including alcohol and drug abuse;

WHEREAS, this alarming situation remains largely unreported because of its sensitive nature and fear of shame that comes with filing a formal complaint;

WHEREAS, compared to stranger abuse, incest has a different psychological and emotional impact on the victim because of the damaged relationship of trust between the victim and the parent;

WHEREAS, Legarda further observed that a child molested by a stranger can run home for help and comfort while a victim of incest cannot;

WHEREAS, at present, the country only has 25 child protection units in key areas in the country and 81 satellite offices nationwide;

WHEREAS, CPU committed to establish one national and six regional training and treatment centers in the next five years to provide assistance to at least 10,000 children abused every year;

WHEREAS, the centers and clinics will address the lack of necessary support system for victims while proactively safeguarding human rights of children;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for Congress to legislate national laws and policies geared towards strengthening the protection of children from violence and abuse;

WHEREAS, there is therefore a need for a long-term program allotted for education about the rights of children to address the lack of necessary support system for victims of incest;

WHEREAS, the State should actively pursue its mandate to create local employment opportunities to forestall the adverse effects of feminization of labor migration;

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 alarming increase of incidents of incest in the country which can be attributable to the feminization of labor migration.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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