

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. 246

RECEIVED

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INCREASE OF SELF-REPORTED HUNGER AMONG FILIPINOS ACCORDING TO THE RECENT SURVEY OF THE SOCIAL WEATHER STATIONS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 13, Section 1 provides that Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power of the common good;

WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin* reported in its 16 August 2013 issue that, according to the recent Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey, there are one million Filipino families who have joined the ranks of those who have experienced hunger due to lack of anything to eat in the past three months;

WHEREAS, the news article said that the SWS finding show the number of hungry families increasing to 4.9 million, or 22.7 percent from their previous survey;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the SWS survey shows that the incidence of hunger was higher by 3.5 from the 19.2 percent (3.9 million families) recorded last March;

WHEREAS, the SWS survey reportedly shows the rest of Luzon had the highest number of hungry families with 2.5 million households, from 1.3 million in March of this year;

WHEREAS, the report showed that the number of families who claimed they experienced hunger also increased in Metro Manila, from 615,000 families (21.7 percent) to 692,000 families (23.7 percent), and in the Visayas from 580,000 households (15 percent) to 869,000 households (21 percent);

WHEREAS, the survey also showed that overall hunger declined in Mindanao from 1.4 million families (29.2 percent) to 834,000 families (17 percent);

WHEREAS, the SWS survey reported that overall hunger went from 39 percent, or an estimated 7.9 million food-poor Filipinos last March;

WHEREAS, the SWS survey also showed that an estimated 10.4 million families or 49 percent said they are poor in the June survey, a statistic down from about 10.6 million households or 52 percent last March;

WHEREAS, the survey also found that moderate hunger, which refers to those experiencing it only once or a few times, increased to 17.3 percent (3.7 million families) from 15.6 percent (3.2 million families) in March;

WHEREAS, the SWS explained the discrepancy in their findings that hunger proportions rose despite the fall in poverty proportions because hunger rose sharply among the Poor, as shown between their March 2013 and June 2013 numbers;

WHEREAS, the conditional cash transfer budget under the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development amounts to 39.31 billion for Fiscal Year 2012, one of the purposes of which is to improve economic conditions of the lower strata of the Filipino society;

WHEREAS, given the DSWD has been implementing the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program in the past few years, Congress should look into the efficiency of ongoing government hunger- and poverty-alleviation projects in achieving their objectives considering the abovementioned findings of the SWS;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the increase of self-reported hunger among Filipinos according to the recent survey of the Social Weather Stations.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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