

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



14 JUN -2 P2 :23

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 682

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT BAMBOO, AND NOT STEEL BARS, WERE USED FOR REINFORCEMENT IN A DESTROYED SCHOOL BUILDING IN PALO, LEYTE

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 27, provides: "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption";

WHEREAS, the *ABS-CBN news.com*, in its online article posted on 27 May 2014, reported that a school building in Palo, Leyte that was destroyed by typhoon Yolanda, was found to have been reinforced with bamboo, instead of steel bars;

WHEREAS, the report claimed that many sought shelter at the San Joaquin Central School in Palo at the height of the typhoon and many died in the area;

WHEREAS, steel was used to reinforce concrete buildings, but ABS-CBN News reportedly found that bamboo was used instead in the school building;

WHEREAS, an official of the Department of Education (DepEd) in Eastern Visayas reportedly said that school principals were in charge of the construction of school buildings;

WHEREAS, the current school principal in San Joaquin, however, claimed that he was not aware of the project, as he was only appointed after the typhoon last December;

WHEREAS, the current principal reportedly added that there were also no documents left behind regarding the project because everything was destroyed in the typhoon;

WHEREAS, it was reported that there were also no records to identify who was in charge of the construction of the building;

WHEREAS; it is imperative for the State to institute immediate measures to prevent substandard materials being used in public and private infrastructures, as well as strengthen existing legislation based on this disaster to prepare the country for any hazard that may come our way;

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 report that bamboo, and not steel bars, were used for reinforcement in a destroyed school building in Palo, Leyte.

Adopted,

over.
Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/fmf