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SENATE

P.S.R. NO. **698**

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Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT CERTAIN HIGH PROFILE INMATES IN THE NEW BILIBID PRISON (NBP) ARE RECEIVING SPECIAL TREATMENT FROM NBP OFFICIALS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF INTRODUCING INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS TO OUR CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Constitution provides that the State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) is the lead agency under the Department of Justice (DOJ) that is charged with custody and rehabilitation of national offenders or those who are sentenced to serve a term of imprisonment of more than three (3) years;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the Philippine National Police (PNP) Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operation Task Force (AIDSOTF) conducted an investigation inside the NBP and discovered that a good number of high profile inmates at the NBP are receiving special treatment from NBP officials;

WHEREAS, the PNP AIDSOTF noticed the presence of luxury items and amenities inside the prison compound that are being used by high profile inmates such as flat screen television sets, air conditioning units, hot and cold shower, and mobile phones¹;

WHEREAS, DOJ Undersecretary Francisco Baraan III disclosed that in May 2014 alone, three (3) high profile NBP inmates were allowed to be temporarily released from the NBP compound without the authority of the DOJ Secretary and were brought to private hospitals purportedly to seek treatment;

WHEREAS, Undersecretary Baraan III discovered that several protocols were ignored by the NBP guards while the high profile inmates were in their custody;

WHEREAS, underscoring the laxity of the NBP guards was the report that a movie starlet and female dancers were allowed to enter the hospital room of one of the high profile prisoners without being frisked and even stayed inside the room up to the wee hours of the morning;

¹ <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/06/04/14/nbp-chief-12-others-relieved-over-vip-inmates>

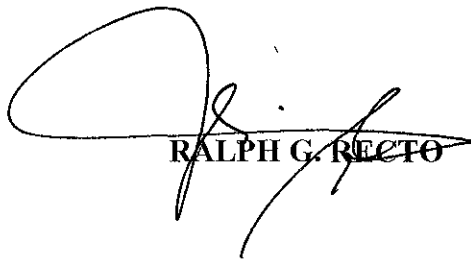
WHEREAS, after receiving the report, the DOJ Secretary acted swiftly and ordered the relief of NBP Chief Superintendent Fajardo Lansangan and the twelve (12) NBP jail personnel who were tasked to guard the high profile inmates while they are confined in the private hospitals;

WHEREAS, aside from the immediate relief of the NBP Chief and the jail personnel, there is a need for the DOJ to further determine their individual administrative and criminal violations and if there are other NBP or BuCor officials involved;

WHEREAS, the filing of appropriate administrative and criminal cases against the erring NBP officials is much desired, the culture of providing special treatment to wealthy high profile inmates would still persist if no major institutional reforms are introduced to our correctional system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Philippine Senate, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that certain high profile inmates in the National Bilibid Prison are receiving special treatment from NBP officials with the end in view of introducing institutional reforms to our correctional system.

Adopted,



RALPH G. RECTO

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