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SENATE
P.S.R. No. 758

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGATIONS FROM THE MEDIA REPORTS THAT
TELEVISION CONTESTS FEATURE CHILD PERFORMERS IN DANGEROUS AND
RISKY GIMMICKS

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7610, Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act.”

Section 2.. Declaration of State Policy and Principles. “ It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to provide special protection to children from all forms of abuse, neglect, cruelty exploitation and discrimination and other conditions, prejudicial their development; provide sanctions for their commission and carry out a program for prevention and deterrence of and crisis intervention in situations of child abuse, exploitation and discrimination. The State shall intervene on behalf of the child when the parent, guardian, teacher or person having care or custody of the child fails or is unable to protect the child against abuse, exploitation and discrimination or when such acts against the child are committed by the said parent, guardian, teacher or person having care and custody of the same;

It shall be the policy of the State to protect and rehabilitate children gravely threatened or endangered by circumstances which affect or will affect their survival and normal development and over which they have no control;

The best interests of children shall be the paramount consideration in all actions concerning them, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities, and legislative bodies, consistent with the principle of First Call for Children as enunciated in the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child. Every effort shall be exerted to promote the welfare of children and enhance their opportunities for a useful and happy life;

WHEREAS, in his column "Viewfinder" in the 24 June 2014 issue of *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, Nestor Torre claimed that the 14 June 2014 episode of the TV show *Its Showtime*, in the finals of its "Mini Me" segment, a minor performed a risky act that had potentially more serious consequences;

WHEREAS, Torre wrote that the show's episode featured a five year-old boy who was doing a Michael Jackson dance impersonation number, with the child rolled to the stage on a board with little wheels, and his body at an angle; Torre claimed it was a risky gimmick because the boy slipped and fell into an opening on the elevated stage, and would have dropped a distance to the bottom if an adult dancer was not there to catch him;

WHEREAS, the columnist also said that, in the same *Showtime* segment, another child dancer was lifted, spun around, and allegedly manhandled by two older dancers to impress the judges and the audience;

WHEREAS, concerned government agencies such as the Department of Social Welfare and the Department of Labor and Employment should be vigilant of entertainment programs that feature child talents and contestants to prevent these shows from putting children in risky and dangerous situations in exchange for a prize and amusement;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the allegations from the media reports that television contests feature child performers in dangerous and risky gimmicks.

Adopted,

avr. 
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/lhl