


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

'14 AUG -6 P2:07

RECEIVED BY. 

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 815

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NEED TO INCREASE STATE WELFARE FOR
HOMELESS SENIOR CITIZENS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 13, Section 2 provides: "The state shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essentials goods, health, and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children. The state shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers;"

WHEREAS, *The Philippine Star*, on 9 July 2014, featured an article regarding the Golden Reception and Action Center for the elderly and other Special Cases or GRACES, which cater to senior citizens rescued by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) or various Local Government Units (LGUs) from the streets of Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, according to the article, even if GRACES has room for only 150 occupants, it is forced to accommodate around 175 persons;

WHEREAS, GRACES's facilities are described as decrepit, with the elderly and paraplegic sleeping in cottages with leaking roofs during cold nights and hot days; the lack of decent beds also reportedly forces them to sleep in makeshift cots or even pieces of cardboard;

WHEREAS, the report claimed that their living condition is further aggravated by the lack of working light bulbs and wheelchairs; it was reported that government funding was just enough for maintenance and operating expenses; thus, when elderly stay-ins get sick and need medical attention, GRACES does not have enough resources for their hospitalization;

WHEREAS, GRACES is reportedly considered a diagnostic, assessment, and processing center and those admitted cannot stay long in the facility; as a result, the temporarily sheltered elderly are encouraged to reunite with their relatives, however, more often than not, they are rejected by their kin;

WHEREAS, there is a need to address the problems of the homeless elderly population in the country, such that additional legislation should be created with regard to ensuring their welfare;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported need to increase State welfare for homeless senior citizens.

Adopted,

aw.
Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/lcb