


SENATE
PSR NO. 946

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RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CURRENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM OF ALL JAILS AND PRISONS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF LEGISLATING A COMPREHENSIVE JAIL AND PRISON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE MECHANISM

WHEREAS, Section 5, Article II of the Constitution provides "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy.";

WHEREAS, the ideal custodial personnel-to-detainee ratio is 1:7 while the 2011 bureau wide custodial personnel-to-detainee ratio is 1:45;

WHEREAS, the ideal reformation personnel-to-inmate ratio is 1:24 but some prisons have a higher ratio such as the National Bilibid Penitentiary with a reformation personnel-to-inmate ratio of 1:62, and the National Correction for Women with a reformation personnel-to-inmate ratio of 1:144;

WHEREAS, to address this deficit, Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10575 or the Bureau of Corrections Act of 2013 was passed in order to maintain the custodial personnel to inmate ratio of 1:7 and reformation personnel to inmate ratio of 1:24;

WHEREAS, despite the passage of R.A. 10575, there is no comprehensive emergency response mechanism for prisons and jails in order to prevent escape and ensure the safety of inmates during emergency situations such as earthquakes, typhoons, and flooding;

WHEREAS, during the onslaught of typhoon Yolanda last 8 November 2013, the roof of the Leyte Provincial Jail was blown off, and as a result 600 detainees clambered up the prison grills and escaped;

WHEREAS, due to the heavy deluge and flooding brought about by tropical storm Mario last 19 September 2014, 9 inmates at the Angono Municipal Police Station escaped, 319 inmates were moved from San Mateo Municipal Jail to a nearby school and 113 inmates were transferred from Meycauan Municipal Jail to a detention facility in Sta. Maria, both in Bulacan Province;

WHEREAS, given that the country is subjected to a number of typhoons every year, and the limited number of custodial and reformation personnel, there is a need to assess the current emergency response systems of prisons and jails in order to provide legislation to improve it;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, TO DIRECT THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CURRENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM OF ALL JAILS AND PRISONS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF LEGISLATING A COMPREHENSIVE JAIL AND PRISON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE MECHANISM.

Adopted,



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID