



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 962

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT OF AN IMPENDING RIOT DUE TO JAIL  
OVERCROWDING IN BULACAN

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 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 Constitution, Article 2, Section 11 provides: "The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights";

WHEREAS, in a news article posted on 7 October 2014 at mb.com.ph, reported that there is rising tension among 3,000 inmates in Bulacan Provincial Jail (BPJ) that was built to accommodate only 500 prisoners;

WHEREAS, the report said that overcrowding has not only caused the detention facility to deteriorate over time, but also led to living conditions behind bars that are nearly inhumane;

WHEREAS, the report also said that no less than Gov. Wilhelmino M. Sy Alvarado took notice of this in his recent visit to the BPJ and announced that the provincial government will give priority to address the situation;

WHEREAS, Alvarado allegedly said that the local government can only do so much, as he sought the help of the national government in his bid to decongest the overcrowded facility;

WHEREAS, Alvarado also claimed that it would entail a bigger budget to build a new penitentiary with better facilities but the present situation shows that it has to be done;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the task force Alvarado created to find solutions to the jail's condition has already made its recommendations, but these have yet to be acted upon, even as the inmate population continues to swell;


WHEREAS, the report said that on the one side, the governor was pleased that the Bulacan Police Provincial Office's (PPO's) all-out campaign against crime has been taking criminals off the streets, but the wrongdoers, most of them facing drug charges, were sent to the BPJ, which was in no condition to offer them reform;

WHEREAS, Alvarado reportedly said that in spite of the efforts of the provincial government and the courts to fast track the cases of detainees, the complaints of their families continue to pile up because more inmates are being brought to the already jam-packed and overcrowded jail;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for Congress to ensure that problems like overcrowding in jails would be addressed promptly and effectively through legislation;

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 of an impending riot due to jail overcrowding in Bulacan.

Adopted,

*alt.*  
  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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