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Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

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**A RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE**  
**COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF**  
**LEGISLATION, ON THE PREVALENCE OF CRIMES IN THE NEW**  
**BILIBID PRISONS (NBP) AND THE SO-CALLED LUXURIOUS**  
**LIVING OF SOME OF ITS INMATES THAT WERE DISCOVERED**  
**AFTER RAIDS WERE CONDUCTED IN THE NBP RECENTLY,**  
**WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ASSESSING THE CAPACITY OF**  
**OUR PRISONS AND CORRECTIONS SYSTEM; REVIEWING THE**  
**FUNCTIONS OF THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS, THE BUREAU**  
**OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY, AND ALL OTHER**  
**CONCERNED REFORMATORY AGENCIES OF THE**  
**GOVERNMENT; AND REVISITING OUR LAWS, POLICIES, AND**  
**RULES ON CORRECTIONS, PENOLOGY, AND JAIL**  
**MANAGEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, *Article II, Section 11* of the *1987 Philippine Constitution* provides that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights;

**WHEREAS**, *Article III, Section 19(2)* of the *1987 Philippine Constitution* provides that the employment of physical, psychological, or degrading punishment against any prisoner or detainee or the use of substandard or inadequate penal facilities under subhuman conditions shall be dealt with by law;

**WHEREAS**, while it is true that part of a prisoner's punishment is the deprivation of his liberty, the Philippines, being a signatory to international covenants such as the *United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners*, the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, and the *Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*, is obliged to provide prisoners a right to reasonable and humane treatment while undergoing correction;

**WHEREAS**, recently, our prisons and corrections system was shaken by controversies which reveal its pitiful and distressing state;

**WHEREAS**, raids<sup>1</sup> by the Department of Justice on the New Bilibid Prisons (“NBP”) uncovered the ugly truth that certain “high profile” inmates were in possession of contraband articles like millions of cash in various currencies, high-powered firearms, flatscreen TVs, computers, Wi-Fi routers, sex toys, pornographic materials, pieces of jewelry, drug paraphernalia, and packs of *shabu* (methamphetamine hydrochloride), among others;

**WHEREAS**, various reports likewise reveal that prostitution is rampant in the NBP<sup>2</sup>, and even officials and employees of the Bureau of Corrections allegedly participate in the trade<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, actor Robin Padilla, Jr. even attested to the fact that he saw *shabu* being prepared inside the NBP in the more than three years that he was imprisoned there for illegal possession of firearms. Mr. Padilla also said that a big number of visitors to the NBP were actually *shabu* buyers<sup>4</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the raids confirmed the “open secret” that has hounded the NBP all these years – that it is a haven for drug deals and prostitution;

**WHEREAS**, these raids brought to fore the stark contrast between the prison conditions of “high profile” and “common” inmates in terms of treatment and provision of basic needs. The “high profile” rich and influential inmates enjoy luxurious accommodations with some enjoying a private gym, hot tubs, music room, and other privileges, while the “common” inmates are herded in cramped, dirty, and undersupplied cells;

**WHEREAS**, it is ironic that there is still injustice in an environment that is supposedly reformatory to prisoners. Crimes are even committed inside the NBP compound;

**WHEREAS**, on January 1, 2015, an eight-year-old girl, daughter of an inmate at the maximum security compound, was attacked by another inmate in what authorities believe to be an attempted rape case. The inmate accused of trying to rape an eight-year-old girl inside the NBP was found positive for use of illegal drugs<sup>5</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> December 15, 19, and 22 in 2014 and January 10, 2015.

<sup>2</sup> GMA News. Retrieved from: <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/392348/news/metromanila/prostitution-rampant-in-bilibid-insider-claims>. Retrieved on January 6, 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Inquirer News. Retrieved from: <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/13881/sex-trade-flourishes-in-bilibid>. Retrieved on January 6, 2015.

<sup>4</sup> Manila Times. Retrieved from: <http://www.manilatimes.net/robin-saw-shabu-lab-inside-bilibid/150177/>. Retrieved on January 6, 2015.

<sup>5</sup> GMA News. Retrieved from: <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/399057/news/nation/doj-inmate-in-bilibid-rape-try-case-found-positive-for-illegal-drug-use>. Retrieved on January 6, 2015.

**WHEREAS**, the foregoing circumstances clearly show the prevalence of crimes, the laxity of security measures, and the deeply-rooted problem of institutionalized corruption in the NBP;

**WHEREAS**, the current state of the NBP may be a vivid example of the dreadful condition of our prisons and corrections system. Despite clear provisions in our Constitution and treaties and international agreements our country has entered into, we are continuously violating the human rights of prisoners through gross and culpable neglect of duty, omission, and apathy; and

**WHEREAS**, it is high time that we address these violations of the rights of our prisoners and make the necessary reforms in our prisons and corrections system;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES BE DIRECTED TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PREVALENCE OF CRIMES IN THE NEW BILIBID PRISONS (NBP) AND THE SO-CALLED LUXURIOUS LIVING OF SOME OF ITS INMATES THAT WERE DISCOVERED AFTER RAIDS WERE CONDUCTED IN THE NBP RECENTLY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ASSESSING THE CAPACITY OF OUR PRISONS AND CORRECTIONS SYSTEM; REVIEWING THE FUNCTIONS OF THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS, THE BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY, AND ALL OTHER CONCERNED REFORMATORY AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT; AND REVISITING OUR LAWS, POLICIES, AND RULES ON CORRECTIONS, PENOLOGY, AND JAIL MANAGEMENT.**

*Adopted,*

  
AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III