

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'15 JAN 26 AM 1:29

SENATE
P. S. Res. No. **1128**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE, WELFARE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON NEWS REPORTS THAT STREET CHILDREN WERE ROUNDED UP AND BROUGHT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) TO CHATEAU ROYALE RESORT IN NASUGBU, BATANGAS DURING THE PAPAL VISIT IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, according to various news reports, street children from the cities of Pasay, Manila and Paranaque were taken by the DSWD to Chateau Royale Resort in Nasugbu, Batangas during the Papal visit in the country last January 14 to 19, 2015;

WHEREAS, in an article published by TIME magazine, it was reported that during the five-day visit of Pope Francis to the Philippines, street children had been rounded up and caged in order to sanitize Manila's streets¹;

WHEREAS, in the same article, it was stated that DSWD Secretary Corazon Juliano-Soliman confirmed that 100 homeless families, comprising 490 parents and children, were taken off the street of Roxas Boulevard and taken to the Chateau Royal Batangas resort. Room rates in the said resort range from \$90 to \$500 per night;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the street families, along with 100 DSWD staff, arrived at the resort on January 14, 2015 and left on January 19, 2015. Their stay was said to be part of DSWD's Modified Conditional Cash Transfer program and the DSWD paid about P4,000 per night for each room²;

WHEREAS, there are allegations that street children in Metro Manila are constantly being rounded up for vagrancy and petty crimes and are being locked up whenever foreign dignitaries visit or international events are held in the country;

¹ Campbell, Charlie, *Pope Francis and the Mystery of Manila's Vanishing Street Children*, TIME Magazine, January 21, 2015, <http://time.com/3676027/popefrancismanilastreetchildrenphilippines/>.

² Viray, Patricia Lourdes, *DSWD sent homeless families to Batangas resort during Pope visit*, The Philippine Star, January 23, 2015.

<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2015-01/23/1415950/dswdsenthomelessfamiliesbatangasresortduringpopevisit>.

WHEREAS, the conduct of an inquiry on this matter is necessary to know the current state of street children in the country and review the government's action plan for them in order to improve the implementation of existing laws and facilitate the passage of legislation that will protect homeless children from danger and exploitation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved to direct the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development to inquire, in aid of legislation, on news reports that street children were rounded up and brought by the DSWD to Chateau Royale Resort in Nasugbu, Batangas during the Papal visit in the country.

Adopted,



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator