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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 274

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Sen. Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

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RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVES JOINT WITH THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ILLEGAL PRACTICES OF LABOR SERVICE COOPERATIVES**

**WHEREAS**, it is declared policy of the State to foster the creation and growth of cooperatives as a practical vehicle for promoting self-reliance and harnessing people power towards the attainment of economic development and social justice, and the State shall encourage the private sector to undertake the actual formation and organization of cooperatives and shall create an atmosphere that is conducive to the growth and development of these cooperatives;

**WHEREAS**, a labor service cooperative is a type of cooperative that is engaged in providing a specific labor, job, or service to a principal under a contracting or sub-contracting arrangements as may be defined under existing laws and in accordance with the cooperative principles set forth under the Republic Act No. 9520 or the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008;

**WHEREAS**, in a Facebook post of PinoyMedia Center dated January 9, 2017, the group published a 6-minute video captioned "Oligarchs recruit Mindanaons to toil in slave-like conditions in Hacienda Luisita", where the said short film described the plight of sakadas, or sugarcane workers, recruited to work in Tarlac;

**WHEREAS**, according to the testimonies of rescued sakadas from the Central Azucarera de Tarlac, a certain Billy Baytos of Greenhand Labor Service Cooperative recruited hundreds of sugarcane farmers from Bukidnon sometime in August of 2016, with the pretense that the job is a livelihood program of President Rodrigo Duterte;

**WHEREAS**, with the assurance of higher wages including statutory contributions such as SSS, PhilHealth, PAG-IBIG, free meals, and a huge hotel as living quarters, hundreds of sugarcane farmers from Bukidnon set forth to Brgy. Mapalacsiao in Tarlac to work as sakadas in Hacienda Luisita;

**WHEREAS**, that upon setting foot in Tarlac, the sakadas from Bukidnon were shocked that their living quarters is no hotel but a lodging that resembles a prison or a shelter for animals with no proper ventilation and there were no free food and all the promised benefits were never met;

**WHEREAS**, the wages of the sakadas of Bukidnon depended on the tonnage of sugarcane harvested, and for more than 13 hours of daily hard labor, farmers received a meager weekly salary of Php 66.21 or Php 9.46 daily salary;

**WHEREAS**, existing laws prohibit labor service and workers cooperatives to engage in labor-only contracting and the story of the Sakadas of Bukidnon, who were deprived of their

rights to just and humane conditions of work, among many mistreatment they endured, is just one of many chronicles of the abuses of labor service cooperatives;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to investigate this matter and put a halt at this form of modern-day slavery that exploits our poor countrymen, and are in clear violation of the law;

**RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Senate of the Philippines direct the Committee on Cooperatives and Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resource Development to conduct an investigation in aid of legislation, on the illegal practices of labor service cooperatives.

*Adopted,*



**JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**