

1 WHEREAS, based on the latest estimates of the United Nations Populations
2 Fund, the current Philippine population is about 108 million. The country ranks 13th
3 in the list of countries with large number of populations with a 1.6 percent increase
4 annually from 2010 to 2019². The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) back this up
5 with a report stating that the Philippines' population is expected to jump to 142 million
6 by 2045. This means that around 50 million would be added in a span of 35 years³;

7 WHEREAS, statistics of POPCOM revealed that there is an average of 530
8 teenagers that get pregnant daily as more adolescents engage in premarital sex. This
9 figure has stayed above 500 since 2010. The number reached a peak in 2017, when the
10 agency recorded 574 teen pregnancies per day which is roughly about 182,500 teenage
11 mothers every year⁴;

12 WHEREAS, POPCOM Executive Director Juan Perez III said that they are
13 taking a close look at the 10 to 14 age groups, further stating that they found a 50%
14 increase of pregnancies since 2011, amounting to around 2,000 cases. What is terribly
15 alarming is that about 30 to 50 percent of these pregnancies are among ten-year-olds—
16 which means that one ten-year-old is giving birth every week and roughly 24 babies
17 are born to teenage mothers every hour⁵. They further inferred that incest or rape
18 could be one of the leading causes of early pregnancies besides the lack of quality
19 education to make sound decisions⁶;

20 WHEREAS, according to the 2013 National Demographic and Health Survey
21 (NDHS), one in every 10 Filipino women aged 15 to 19 is already a mother or pregnant
22 with her first child. The NDHS also concluded that early pregnancy is more prevalent
23 among poor households, particularly in families that receive less education⁷;

24 WHEREAS, in line with this phenomenon, it must be noted that the Philippines
25 is the only country among its regional neighbors that is experiencing a rapid increase
26 in the number of teenage pregnancies;

² Reyes, Ronald O. UCANEWS. *Philippines struggles to keep population in check*. 6 June 2019. Retrieved from <https://www.ucanews.com/news/philippines-struggles-to-keep-population-in-check/85330>

³ Rappler. *Philippine population to hit 142 M by 2025*. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/64684-ph-population-142-million-2045>

⁴ *Supra Ibid 1*

⁵ Gavilan, Jodesz. Rappler. *Ending Child Marriages, Teenage Pregnancies, Poverty*. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/move-ph/issues/hunger/71641-international-day-girl-teenage-pregnancy-poverty>

⁶ *Ibid*

⁷ Rodriguez, Fritzie. Rappler. *Kids having kids: When choice is not an option*. 10 February 2019. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/move-ph/issues/gender-issues/83453-early-pregnancy-philippines>

1 WHEREAS, according to Socioeconomic Secretary Ernesto Pernia, teenage
2 pregnancy has become a “national social emergency” because it does not only threaten
3 the youth but likewise incurs economic losses to our country. Teenagers who become
4 young parents have a high tendency of being part of low-income wage earners for not
5 having finished college and as a consequence their children will most likely be
6 susceptible to malnutrition⁸;

7 WHEREAS, founders of Roots of Health, a Palawan women’s health Non-
8 Government Organization (NGO), also concluded the same saying that teen pregnancy
9 has wide-ranging consequences, “...not just in terms of health of the teenagers who are
10 becoming parents at such young ages and then the children they themselves have, but
11 it is also costing the government a lot. So much money lost in productivity and in terms
12 of them being unable to join the formal economy because they haven’t finished high
13 school.”;

14 WHEREAS, the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) likewise
15 averred that young mothers lose about ₱24 billion to ₱47 billion in earnings annually
16 due to an early pregnancy. This could result to “intergenerational poverty” if not
17 prevented⁹;

18 WHEREAS, the Philippines is the 5th country in the world with the most cases
19 of low birthweight infants. According to a 2013 report by the United Nations Children’s
20 Fund (UNICEF), the lack of investment in women’s health may result in a “weak,
21 sickly, and dull population, ultimately putting a strain on the Philippine economy,
22 education and development”¹⁰;

23 WHEREAS, the latest data show that the poorest fifth of Filipino women not
24 only have the most number of children on average, but they also have the highest level
25 of “unwanted fertility”¹¹;

26 WHEREAS, the 2013 Young Adults Fertility and Sexuality Study showed that
27 one out of three Filipino youth engages in premarital sex. This statistic illustrates the

⁸ *Supra Ibid 2*

⁹ Parlade, Gabrielle. NoliSoli. *NEDA calls for “National Social Emergency” on teenage pregnancy*. 28 August 2019. Retrieved from <https://nolisoli.ph/66627/teenage-pregnancy-neda-mparlade-20190828/>

¹⁰ Rodriguez, Fritzie. Rappler. *Hungry and pregnant in the Philippines*. 23 January 2014. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/move-ph/48039-hunger-during-pregnancy>

¹¹ Punongbayan, JC. Rappler. *[ANALYSIS] Whatever happened to the Reproductive Health Law*. 18 October 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/thought-leaders/214581-analysis-whatever-happened-to-reproductive-health-law-philippines>

1 high possibility of the youth becoming teenage parents or being infected by sexually
2 transmitted infections¹²;

3 WHEREAS, Secretary Pernia said that the Philippines used to have a
4 Government Population Program but was later on abandoned on 1969. It was further
5 concluded that if only the government sustained the program, the Philippines would
6 have reached upper middle-income country (UMIC) as early as 2011, poverty would
7 only be at 10% and we will have a low number of out-of-school youths and teenage
8 pregnancies¹³;

9 WHEREAS, the other factors that could possibly link to the increased number
10 of teenage pregnancies is abuse and community practice of child marriage, as
11 concluded by Secretary Pernia¹⁴;

12 WHEREAS, with the advent of social media and fast-paced advancement in our
13 modern society, it is high time that age-appropriate sexuality education be given notice
14 and importance. Such education will aid in the better and informed decision-making
15 capabilities of the young generation. Their lack of awareness and poor access to correct
16 information make them more prone to sexual abuse and deprives them of more
17 opportunities to have a better future because instead of studying they are burdened to
18 find means to support their young families;

19 WHEREAS, in light of the abovementioned numerous life-threatening
20 scenarios and pervasive effects of teenage pregnancy not only to the youth but to the
21 nation as a whole, it becomes crucial and imperative for the State to immediately act
22 on what is now considered as a “national social emergency” in order to provide for
23 holistic solutions to the various challenges faced by our youth, especially those who
24 are most vulnerable and exposed to the many effects caused by unintended
25 pregnancies;

26 WHEREAS, there is also an urgent need to protect and effectively address the
27 concerns of the youth to help them attain their full productive capacity and vigorously
28 contribute and participate to the development and growth of our country;

¹² Geronimo, Jee Y., Rappler. *When talking about sex is easy*. 30 July 02014. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/64805-teenage-sexuality-reproductive-health-u4u>

¹³ Ordinario, Cai. Business Mirror. *'Pregnant at 10, 11, 12 years old? A likely case of abuse there*. 16 June 2019. Retrieved from <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2019/07/16/pregnant-at-10-11-12-years-old-a-likely-case-of-abuse-there/>

¹⁴ *Ibid*

1 WHEREAS, given the foregoing, it is necessary to conduct a comprehensive
2 assessment and review of Republic Act No. 10354 to ensure its effective
3 implementation, guarantee the compliance of concerned government agencies and
4 stakeholders and provide accessible and relevant education to the youth;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, AS IT IS HEREBY
6 RESOLVED, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid
7 of legislation, into the drastic escalation in the number of pregnancies among
8 teenagers with the end in view of reviewing the status of implementation of Republic
9 Act No. 10354, otherwise known as “Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive
10 Health Act of 2012” and intensifying public awareness on the myriad negative effects
11 of teenage pregnancy in the country.

Adopted,


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