

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

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SENATE
P.S.R. No. 517

RECEIVED BY: JS

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE ALLEGED NEGATIVE LABELING AND BIAS AGAINST MUSLIMS
IN THE MEDIA

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, in its 23 April 2006 issue, reported that the Philippine Council for Islam and Democracy (PCID) decried the discrimination against Muslims, other minority groups, and indigenous peoples by mainstream media practitioners;

WHEREAS, PCID Chair Amina Rasul said that Muslim communities complain against the negative content and labeling of Muslims in media reports, especially when the reports come from Mindanao;

WHEREAS, Rasul also commented that the media rarely picks up positive news about Mindanao, while it tends to pick up news of conflict, crimes, and other negative reports;

WHEREAS, the negative labeling of and the strong bias against Muslims were bared in the United Nations-funded 2005 Philippine Human Development Report conducted by Pulse Asia in March 2005; according to the survey, out of 1,200 adult respondents:

- ñ 33 to 39 percent showed latent anti-Muslim bias;
- ñ 55 percent thought that "Muslims are proven to run amok";
- ñ 47 percent thought Muslims were terrorists or extremists; and
- ñ 44 percent believed that Muslims harbored hatred toward non-Muslims;

WHEREAS, the bias of mainstream media against Muslims is detrimental to the peace process in the areas of conflict in Mindanao, and may inflame latent tensions between Muslim and non-Muslim Filipinos, causing distrust, enmity, and disunity among our people;

WHEREAS, while the government exerts tremendous efforts in easing enmities borne from the Mindanao conflicts, at the same time alleviating poverty and spurring growth and development in the area, the role of the media in Muslim relations in the country must be assessed to promote a more balanced and equitable image for Filipino Muslims and eliminate the biases against them; now be it

RESOLVED, that the proper Senate committee shall conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged negative labeling and bias against Muslims in the media.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO