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SENATE
P. S. Res. No. 56

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Introduced by Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile

**RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND
HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES
TO CONDUCT AN IMMEDIATE INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
INTO THE PLIGHT OF INMATES IN MUNICIPAL, CITY,
PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL JAILS, WITH THE END-IN-VIEW OF
RECOMMENDING LONG-TERM AND IMMEDIATE REMEDIAL
MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE SERIOUS PROBLEM OF
CONGESTION, INADEQUATE FACILITIES, INHUMANE
CONDITIONS AND OTHER PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE
WELFARE OF INMATES**

Whereas, it is the policy of the state to value the dignity of every human being and guarantee full respect for human rights;

Whereas, Article III, Section 19, Paragraph 2 of the 1987 Constitution states that "The employment of physical, psychological, or degrading punishment against any prisoner or detainee or the use of substandard or inadequate facilities under subhuman conditions shall be dealt with by law;"

Whereas, there are numerous reports about the subhuman conditions existing in the various jails throughout the country, primarily brought about by over-congestion of inmates;

Whereas, as an example, per the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as of July 2010, the Manila City Jail male section has a total population of three thousand seven hundred four (3,559) inmates, when such jail was built only to house one thousand three hundred ninety (1,390) inmates, translating to 266 percent (266%) overcrowding rate;

Whereas, aside from extreme overcrowding, the lack of basic facilities, and prevalence of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, fungi infection, skin allergies, respiratory and other diseases have affected the well-being of inmates, adding undue physical misery and



mental distress to their incarceration, in violation of their basic human rights;

Whereas, several existing government efforts have had some success in addressing overcrowding in jails such as the Supreme Court Justice on Wheels program, the Public Attorney's Office's jail visitation program, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology paralegal program, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)-facilitated Call for Action project and its working groups, which addresses tuberculosis in jails and prisons, the upgrading of penal infrastructures, and improving criminal justice processes for the inmates;

Whereas, such existing programs are insufficient to completely address the situation of our jails and there is therefore need for a coordinated approach by the three branches of government in order to overcome the problem;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Senate, that the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights and other appropriate Committees to conduct an immediate inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the plight of the detainees in municipal, city, provincial and national jails throughout the country, gather data such as the actual number of detainees and inmates, the charges filed against them and the details thereof, length of time of their incarceration, among other pertinent information, with the end-in-view of recommending long-term and immediate remedial measures to address the serious problem of congestion, inadequate facilities, inhumane conditions and other problems affecting the welfare of inmates.



JUAN PONCE ENRILE
Senator