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SENATE  
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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO REVIEW AND ASSESS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ANTI-HAZING LAW UNDER REPUBLIC ACT 8049 IN THE LIGHT OF THE GROWING RESURGENCE OF FRATERNITY-RELATED VIOLENCE IN UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS WITH THE END-IN-VIEW OF SUBMITTING RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WOULD ENSURE PROTECTION OF STUDENTS AND PREVENTION OF HAZING OCCURENCES**

Whereas, on June 7, 1995, Republic Act 8049 or the Anti-Hazing Law was approved to serve as the main framework to prevent hazing activities as well as to establish a system of penalties on the perpetrators of hazing and similar forms of initiation rites that result in physical injury, if not the death of the neophyte;

Whereas, in congruence with the provisions of the Anti-Hazing Law of 1995, colleges, universities and academic institutions devised rules and internal policies to ensure that they abide with the existing law, a number of which are illustrated as examples:

1. In the University of San Carlos in the Visayas, the USC-Inter-Fraternity and Sorority Council was established in August 15, 1995 to serve as the campus marshall that oversees and governs recognized fraternities and sororities in the USC and ensures that these organizations do not violate the provisions prescribed by the Anti-Hazing Law;
2. A number of universities integrated in their Student Handbook and Mandatory Circulars their support for the law as exemplified by De La Salle University-Manila where it mandates incoming freshman students to sign a notarized waiver stating their pledge not to join any fraternity or sorority within their period of enrolment in the University and in the Isabela State University, the Student Handbook contained provisions implementing the Anti-Hazing Law;

Whereas, even fraternities and sororities demonstrate willingness to comply with measures that promote the Anti-Hazing Law, viz:

1. The Alpha Phi Omega International Service Fraternity and Sorority based in Mindanao launched an all-out campaign for the total eradication of hazing and the culture of violence on October 12, 2007.

2. Alpha Phi Omega Philippines revised their National Pledge and included the regulation, "Absolutely no Hazing during pledging."

Whereas, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) supports the advocacy to condemn hazing and physical violence within educational institutions as capsulized in CHED Order No. 4, series of 1995 or the Preventive Measures Against Violence and Sanctions on Fraternities and Other Student Organizations;

Whereas, the death due to hazing of the University of the Philippines-Diliman Public Administration and Governance student in 2007, instigated the 160-member Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACU) to call for the abolition of fraternities and sororities nationwide;

Whereas, a research data prepared and tabulated by GMA News Research dated September 5, 2007 revealed that fraternity-related violence did not ceased following the passage of the Law intending to regulate hazing and initiation rites;

Whereas, there seems to be a laxity in the implementation of the law because of the recurrence of hazing cases in universities and colleges;

Whereas, among the amendments suggested that can be incorporated in the present statute are:

- That the Law should not only penalize physical violence as a result of hazing, but should mandate alternative initiation rites such as community and University service or tutorial assistance. These alternative and constructive nation-building activities would channel the group's energies from inculcating violence and institutionalized barbarity to the realization of their true mandate.
- There should also be a provision which would correspond to the violence resulting not only to hazing or initiation rites but also for other fraternity-related violence such as riots and fraternity rumbles. An amendment should be made to penalize the planning and execution of fraternity rumbles and riots.

Now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines To urge the appropriate committee/s to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to review and assess the implementation of the Anti-Hazing Law under Republic Act 8049 in the light of the growing resurgence of fraternity-related violence in universities, colleges and academic institutions with the end-in-view of submitting recommendations that would ensure the protection of students and prevention of hazing occurrences.

Adopted,

  
MANNY VILLAR