

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

10 DEC 14 P5:00

SENATE
P.S. RES. NO. 318

DATE: 10 DEC 14 BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manny B. Villar

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS, AND COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND POLICIES TO ENSURE THE PHILIPPINES' ADHERENCE AND COMMITMENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

WHEREAS, 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "[t]he State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being" (Article II, Section 13);

WHEREAS, it also states that that the Philippines adopts the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the land (Article II, Section 2);

WHEREAS, being a United Nations (UN) member, the Philippines adheres to the UN Declaration of Human Rights which states that childhood is entitled to special care and assistance;

WHEREAS, the Philippines also adheres to the International Convention on the Rights of the Child by being a signatory thereto since 26 January 1990;

WHEREAS, the above Convention on the Rights of the Child states that the Parties thereto recognizes that "every child has a right to life" and "shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child."

WHEREAS, the Convention also recognizes "the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health" (Article 24[1]) and the "right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development" (Article 27[1]);

WHEREAS, despite the above laws and principles to which the Philippines adhere to, a significant number of Filipino children are still abandoned, neglected and abused;

WHEREAS, in fact, the United Nations Children's Fund Child Information reports that 30.6% of the Filipino children under five years old are malnourished while 12% of Filipino children aged 5-14 years old from 1999-2008 partake in labor;

WHEREAS, the same report also states that there is an estimated 1.8 million Filipino children aged 0-17 who are orphans, abandoned and neglected which comprises about 4.5% of the total Filipino children population which is now pegged at 40 million;

WHEREAS, these dismal figures fall short to our UN adhered to principles particularly the maximum development of a child;

WHEREAS, springing from the familiar Filipino adage "*ang kabataan ang pag-asa ng bayan,*" and the above mentioned UN principles and the 1987 Philippine Constitution, it is extant upon the government, particularly the Executive Department, to ensure to the maximum extent possible the development of every Filipino child;

WHEREAS, this responsibility of development and protection of children also finds basis in Article 4 of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that "States Parties shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention;"

RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Senate Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations, and Committee on Education, Arts and Culture to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the implementation of the Government programs and policies to ensure the Philippines' adherence and commitment to the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Adopted,



Manny Villar