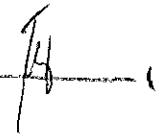


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

8 SEP -2 P3:15

SENATE P.S.R. No. 608

RECEIVED BY: _____



Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE'S (NSO) CLAIM THAT 10.6 MILLION FILIPINOS IN MINDANAO HAVE NO BIRTH RECORDS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 11 provides, "The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, in an article entitled "NSO: 10.6M in Mindanao Have No Records of Birth", dated 28 August 2008, reported that an official of the National Statistics Office (NSO) allegedly said that a big number of unregistered Filipinos, or those who have no birth certificates come from Mindanao;

WHEREAS, the report claimed that Carmelita Ericta, NSO administrator, said that 10.62 million people from Mindanao, or 12 percent of the 88.57 million people included in the 2007 population census were not registered with local civil registrars, in contrast with Luzon where almost 100 percent of the population already has birth certificates,

WHEREAS, Ericta allegedly said that a big percentage of these unregistered individuals come from the indigenous peoples groups and Moro tribes and that there are also children – including street children many of whom are found in Davao City– who do not have a sense of identity;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that there has been some talks with tribal chieftains and Muslim religious leaders in the hope of establishing a civil registry procedure for their people and talks with non-government organizations that work with children to take care of their registration,

WHEREAS, the NSO also claimed that they are looking into the registration of Filipinos who were born in Malaysia but who live in the Philippines, since they may not be registered as Filipinos;

WHEREAS, if true, there is an urgent need to address this situation not only because government licensing agencies and schools require birth certificates before the application of an individual is processed, but also because this aberration goes to the very heart of who should be considered Filipinos and infringes on the human rights of our countrymen;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to investigate, in aid of legislation, the National Statistics Office's claim that 10.6 million Filipinos in Mindanao have no birth records.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/cdr