

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

First Regular Session
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

130

House Resolution No. _____



Introduced by Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN TO CONDUCT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE ONLINE REPORT BY AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE (AFP) ON JULY 22, 2019, ENTITLED "'WORSE THAN PRISON': ABUSES IN PHILIPPINE YOUTH HOMES," DELINEATING THE ABJECT CONDITION OF YOUTH DETAINED IN YOUTH DETENTION CENTERS, AND PRESCRIBE COUNTERMEASURES IN ORDER TO CURTAIL THE SAME

WHEREAS, in the July 22, 2019 online report of Agence France Presse (AFP), entitled "'Worse Than Prison': Abuses in Philippine Youth Homes," the news agency stated that, "officially called "Houses of Hope," proponents in the Philippines say such facilities are places for reformation and education, but critics slam many of them as "hellholes" where children are treated like caged animals"¹;

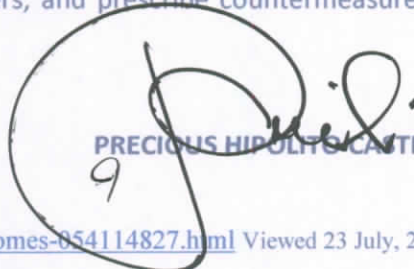
WHEREAS, AFP news further reported that, "under existing law, Houses of Hope (Bahay Pag-asa) are primarily to hold young offenders aged 15 to 18. But charities say younger vulnerable children from troubled homes are sometimes swept up in the dragnet even for minor misdemeanours and struggle to recover from the experience"²;

WHEREAS, AFP quoted Melanie Ramos-Llana of Child Rights Network Philippines as saying, "There is a higher potential for abuse because the government is not prepared... You put more children into Houses of Hope which are not equipped, lack personnel and programmes, you will have problems. Jails or detention centres are not places for children";

WHEREAS, AFP reported that, "five children previously held in the system suffered abuse in youth centres"³;

WHEREAS, AFP further reported that, "there are 55 government-run Houses of Hope nationwide, but this is well short of the 114 the Philippines has estimated it needs to properly house troubled juveniles"⁴;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives to urge the Committee on Welfare of Children to conduct, in aid of legislation, the online report by Agence France Presse (AFP) on July 22, 2019, entitled "'Worse Than Prison': Abuses in Philippine Youth Homes," delineating the abject condition of youth detained in youth detention centers, and prescribe countermeasures in order to curtail the same.


PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO

¹ <https://ph.news.yahoo.com/worse-prison-abuses-philippine-youth-homes-054114827.html> Viewed 23 July, 2019

² Ibid

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid