

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

First Regular Session
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

House Resolution No. 537



Introduced by the Honorable Precious Hipolito Castelo

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALARMING INCREASE OF MORTALITY RATE IN OUR PRISON FACILITIES

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 19, Paragraph 2 of our Philippine Constitution provides that: "The employment of physical, psychological, or degrading punishment against any prisoner or detainee or the use of substandard or inadequate penal facilities under subhuman conditions shall be dealt with by law.";

WHEREAS, Article 10 (1) of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights provides that: "All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.";

WHEREAS, according to Dr. Henry Fabro, chief of the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) hospital the death rate among inmates has reached a critical level, citing one death every day due to the lack of doctors and medical equipment;

WHEREAS, Dr. Fabro also said that the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) has only thirteen (13) doctors looking over 47,000 inmates in seven (7) prison facilities and penal colonies nationwide;

WHEREAS, he further told that the maximum security compound of the NBP which is populated by around 18,000 inmates, is currently staffed by just five (5) doctors and forty (40) nurses;

WHEREAS, prisoner mortality rate is currently at 0.5% of the total inmate population – way higher than the universally accepted figure of 0.2%;

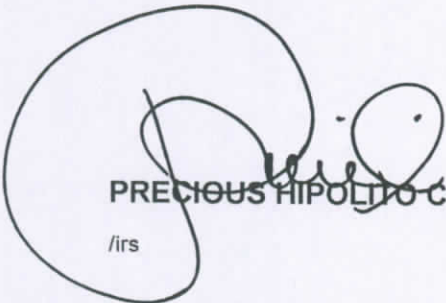
WHEREAS, this alarming figure ought to be reduced, as according to Republic Act No. 10575 or the Bureau of Corrections Act of 2013, the health personnel to inmate ratio shall be at one (1) for every eighty (80) inmates;

WHEREAS, the current number of health personnel assigned in prison facilities nationwide is extremely below this required ratio of 1:80;

WHEREAS, Dr. Fabro has publicly sought the assistance of the Department of Health to solve this pressing matter;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives to direct the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the alarming increase of mortality rate in our prison facilities.

ADOPTED,



PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO
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