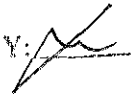


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'11 MAY -4 P2 :18

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 451

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON STRENGTHENING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610 (SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION ACT), REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9775 (AN ACT DEFINING THE CRIME OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY), REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9231 (AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR), AND OTHER RELATED LAWS IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN APPEARING IN BROADCAST MEDIA

WHEREAS, the Philippines is party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other various international conventions which directly or indirectly advance the rights of the child;

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 13, states that the 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;

WHEREAS, it was reported by various news agencies last 27 April 2011 that the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has filed a complaint against Willie Revillame over the incident where a crying six-year-old boy was repeatedly asked to show his macho dancing talent in front of a live audience in an episode of his game show "Willing Willie" on 12 March 2011, an incident various concerned individuals and advocacy groups condemned and protested through various media;

WHEREAS, violation of Republic Act No. 7610 or the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act was filed against Revillame before the Quezon City Prosecutors Office, in accordance with DSWD's mandate to protect children who are victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation;

WHEREAS, other non-government advocacy groups also filed charges against Revillame and six other respondents for violation of Republic Act Nos. 7610, 9775 (An Act Defining the Crime of Child Pornography), and 9231 (An Act Providing for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor);

WHEREAS, prior to the filing of such charges, television network TV5 and Revillame issued an apology over that incident that offended some people for what they deemed the host's "humiliating" and "abusive" treatment of the child;

WHEREAS, in connection with its apology, TV5 issued its own Guidelines on the Treatment of Children as Viewers, Subjects, Talents or Participants, which outlined network policies and principles for being "mindful of its responsibilities towards children, whether they be its subjects, talents, participants or viewers" in its programming;

WHEREAS, despite concerned government agencies and non-government entities acting upon the issue through possible punitive sanctions via judicial remedies, legislation should remain vigilant that the laws Congress have enacted—Republic Act Nos. 7610, 9775, 9231, and other related laws—be as effective in its preventive aspects as it is in identifying and punishing violations of children’s rights;

WHEREAS, Congress should find it strengthen legislation through the lessons of this experience, and opt for a more active involvement of agencies, such as the DSWD, in making sure another incident similar to what has transpired in “Willing Willie” be prevented from even being shown in television through stringent monitoring of children appearing in broadcast media;

WHEREAS, Congress should require every media agency to observe strict guidelines that adhere to the State’s commitment on protecting children’s rights as enshrined in the Constitution, international law, and domestic law;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on strengthening Republic Act No. 7610 (Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act), Republic Act No. 9775 (An Act Defining the Crime of Child Pornography), Republic Act No.9231 (An Act Providing for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor), and other related laws in order to ensure the protection of children appearing in broadcast media.

Adopted,

ocs

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/ptmt