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OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE P.S.R. No. 115

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE ALLEGED BIAS IN FAVOR OF RICH AND INFLUENTIAL INMATES AT BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY FACILITIES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 3, Section 19, paragraph 2 states, "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, it has been a growing concern that wealthy convicts have managed to bring a slice of their luxurious lifestyle to the national penitentiary;

WHEREAS, various news reports cited as examples the room that served as Claudio Teehankee Jr.'s "halfway house" in the New Bilibid Prison (NBP), which was furnished with a 42-inch LCD television set, an electric stove, a queen-size bed, a refrigerator, and a small bathroom covered with white ceramic tiles and equipped with a hot-and-cold shower hooked to a water pump to maintain constant pressure, although some residents at the NBP complex said they had problems with water supply;

WHEREAS, former Representative Romeo Jalosjos, a convicted child rapist, was also claimed to have financed the development of certain areas in the maximum security compound, such as merchandise stalls, a coffee shop and bakery, and a tennis court adjacent to his' snug kubol, which served as his prison quarters before he was granted "living-out" privileges in June 2007; .

WHEREAS, there were also reports that Jalosjos would host lavish feasts in the kubol, with several round tables set up for his guests;

WHEREAS, it was also learned that before he was pardoned, Occidental Mindoro Rep. Jose Villarosa was also allowed to build a livelihood center and a "swimming pool," which, NBP insiders allegedly said, was later converted into a tank for soaking capiz shells for Villarosa's export business;

WHEREAS, it was alleged that the cost of a kubol ranges from P10,000 to as much as P30,000, and the NBP has "tolerated" the construction of such special lodgings for years, such that in the maximum security compound alone, at least 6,000 kubol were constructed with the permission of the NBP superintendent;

WHEREAS, a NBP source claimed that sometimes, prison guards delay the entry of construction materials into the NBP complex to receive a "kickback", and that inmates had to pay 20 percent of the cost of the kubol to the so-called "mayor" (or leader of a detention cell);

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to investigate this report, not only to determine the veracity of these claims, but more importantly, to amend, or if needed, craft new legislation to address the loopholes in our penal system;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to investigate, in aid of legislation, the alleged bias in favor of rich and influential inmates at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology facilities.

Adopted,

*cc*  
  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO