Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  

EIGHTEENTH (18th) CONGRESS  
First Regular Session  

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 431  

Introduced by REP. JOSE CHRISTOPHER Y. BELMONTE  

A RESOLUTION  
URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES TO  
INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE EXORBITANT FEES  
CHARGED FOR FUNERAL AND BURIAL SERVICES BY HIMLAYANG  
PILIPINO, INC. AND OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS IN METRO MANILA,  
AND TO REVIEW EXISTING LAWS PERTAINING TO SUCH  

WHEREAS, Section 9, Article II and Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to provide adequate social services for every Filipino at an affordable cost;  

WHEREAS, pursuant to Articles 294, 305, and 306 of the Civil Code of the Philippines, the immediate family members shall have the duty and the right to make funerary arrangements of the deceased, where every funeral shall be in keeping with the social position of the deceased;  

WHEREAS, the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), reorganized as the Human Settlements Adjudication Commission (HSAC) under the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), provides for Rules and Regulations for Memorial Parks, but such regulations, and other Philippine laws do not specify the ceiling price for the sale of burial plots, and is therefore merely under the discretion of the owners of memorial parks;  

WHEREAS, the United Nations Research Institute on Social Development or UNRISD provides that social services provisioning improves well-being, enhances productivity and earnings, and reduces inequalities across income, class, gender, ethnicity and location;
WHEREAS, several grievances have reached this Representation’s Office pertaining to the exorbitant fees charged by Himlayang Pilipino, Inc., located at Himlayan Road, Barangay Pasong Tamo, Quezon City, for burial plots, interment services and other fees;

WHEREAS, these exorbitant fees in Himlayang Pilipino, Inc. pertain to interment costs amounting to almost PhP100,000 and burial plot costs amounting to about PhP100,000 to PhP300,000, and not only does this render these social services unaffordable to many, but this may also be subject to arbitrary increase in the future;

WHEREAS, according to Citi Philippines, grieving families or guardians shoulder several tremendous costs for the rites for the deceased, including, but are not limited to funeral services amounting to around PhP15,000 for simple set-ups, burial services amounting to around PhP5,000 to PhP20,000 or more, cremation services amounting to around PhP10,000 to PhP20,000, caskets amounting to around PhP8,000 from small funeral parlors, urns ranging from PhP2,500 to PhP50,000, memorial lots amounting to around PhP65,000 to about hundreds of thousands, crypts amounting to around PhP25,000, and other costs for the death certificate, flowers, and food;

WHEREAS, according to the 2015 Family Income and Expenditure Survey, the bottom 30% income group spend a majority of their income for food and other basic needs, thereby leaving families little to no opportunity to set aside funds for the costs of the rites for the deceased;

WHEREAS, honoring the dead with the appropriate funeral and burial rites is culturally embedded in Filipino values and traditions, and should be treated with utmost reverence by all civil and juridical persons;

WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure that burial and interment services are within reasonable prices at all times in order to ease the burden of the cost of sacred tradition of honoring the dead.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, to direct the Committee on Social Services to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to investigate the exorbitant fees charged for funeral and burial services by Himlayang Pilipino, Inc. and other service providers in Metro Manila, and to review existing laws pertaining to such.

Adopted,