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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1147

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NEED FOR THE COMMISSION  
ON ELECTIONS TO PROVIDE MORE MEASURES THAT WILL ALLOW MORE  
VOTERS TO REGISTER FOR THE ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 5, Section 2 states: "The Congress shall provide a system for securing the secrecy and sanctity of the ballot as well as a system for absentee voting by qualified Filipinos abroad [xxx]";

WHEREAS, various complaints alleged that the offices of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) in municipal halls are closed when they create satellite offices in other areas;

WHEREAS, there were also allegations that some Comelec offices have to close early due to the lack of computers in their offices; for example, various media reported that the Comelec office in the Makati municipal hall allegedly has only one computer to cater to hundreds of registering voters per day, as a result, the Comelec office has to limit the number of registering voters to a hundred each day; it was also reported that Makati residents who need to register have to fall in line as early as 4 A.M just to meet the one-hundred-per-day cut-off;

WHEREAS, some complaints also alleged that the time allotted to register is unfriendly to the working class since they have to apply for a leave in order to register; worse, they are not even sure if they will be able to register on the day of their leave since the Comelec office in their area might be closed or unable to register them if they do not meet the cut-off number;

WHEREAS, with the growing number of registering voters, it is imperative for the State to provide ample means that will enable its constituents to exercise their right to suffrage;

WHEREAS, the Comelec should have at least one satellite office open on weekends to accommodate those who wish to register but who cannot afford to take a leave of absence from work during the weekdays;

WHEREAS, to reach a greater number of possible voters, the Comelec should also open an office in the malls, barangay halls, or community centers, or extend their office hours from 5 P.M to 7 P.M.;

WHEREAS, it is also imperative that there should at least be one staff in the Comelec office in the municipal hall during those times that the Comelec opens a satellite office in another area;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the reported need for the Commission on Elections to provide more measures that will allow more voters to register for the elections.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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