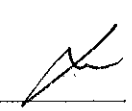


SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1155

REC. OFF. OF THE SENATE


Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NEED TO REVIEW THE
SPIRITUAL ADVANCEMENT VALUES EDUCATION PROGRAM INSTITUTED
BY RETIRED PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE GENERAL RUBEN CIRON

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 27 states: "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Star* in its 23 June 2009 issue reported that the newly created Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) is currently spending more than P14 million for a "values education" and "purpose driven life" seminar for all its employees;

WHEREAS, it was reported that employees of the CAAP, who requested anonymity, claimed that retired Philippine Air Force (PAF) General Ruben Ciron, CAAP director general, has allotted a budget of P14,819,080 for a supposed "Spiritual Advancement Values Education" (SAVE) program that started in September 2008;

WHEREAS, the SAVE program is reportedly supervised by Ciron's consultant, Bishop Ernesto Sacro who, like the CAAP chief, is a retired military general or a Philippine Navy commodore;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that some CAAP employees have found the SVE program to be highly suspicious; they consider the program an unnecessary undertaking that uses up much of the agency's funds and even diverts its focus as it tries to regain a Category I status with the United States' Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) that it lost in December 2007;

WHEREAS, the CAAP was formed upon signing into law of Republic Act 9497, otherwise known as the CAAP Law, in March 2008; the report claimed that the passage of the CAAP Law was rushed as the country scrambled to regain Category I status with the US FAA;

WHEREAS, the report also claimed that according to some of the CAAP employees, Ciron hired these unqualified retired military officers as "consultants" to avoid questions;

WHEREAS, although values education could do wonders in forming a person's character, it is not indispensable; during this time of financial crisis, the government should be wary with its expenses and focus on projects and seminars that will help its constituents economically;

WHEREAS, the legislature should review the need to limit the CAAP's funds and if Ciron could be held liable for corrupt practices or not;

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 to review the Spiritual Advancement Values Education Program instituted by retired Philippine Air Force General Ruben Ciron.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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