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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1196

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON EFFECTING REFORMS TO  
IMPROVE THE LEVEL OF GOVERNANCE IN THE COUNTRY

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

WHEREAS, according to the World Bank in its report on Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) for 1996-2008, the Philippines lags behind its regional neighbors in terms of good governance and anti-corruption efforts;

WHEREAS, the WGI report's aggregate and individual governance indicators for 212 countries and territories over the period for six dimensions of governance were: voice and accountability, political stability and absence of violence, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law and control of corruption;

WHEREAS, according to the report, governance consists of the traditions and institutions by which authority in a country is exercised;

WHEREAS, the report's definition of governance includes following: the process by which governments are selected, monitored and replaced; the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies; and the respect of citizens and the state for the institutions that govern economic and social interactions among them;

WHEREAS, although the country has made progress in fighting corruption, upholding the rule of law, and keeping political stability, the report scored the Philippines behind the regional averages;

WHEREAS, the Philippines' score in anti-corruption efforts improved to 26.1 percent last year from 22.2 percent in 2007, which was below the 45.1 percent average for the region;

WHEREAS, in terms of upholding the rule of law, the country's score was 39.7 percent last year, an improvement from the 33.8 percent in 2007 but still below the regional average of 52.9 percent;

WHEREAS, in terms of keeping political stability, the Philippines scored 10.5 percent last year from 10.1 percent in 2007 vis-à-vis the regional average of 59.4 percent;

WHEREAS, with regard to the soundness of its regulatory policies, the Philippines scored 51.7 percent last year, which was above the regional average of 42.1 percent; its score the previous year was 50.5 percent;

WHEREAS, the country's scores for "government effectiveness" and "voice accountability" fell last year to 55 percent and 41.3 percent respectively, from the previous year's 56.4 percent and 43.3 percent;

WHEREAS, the scores in the WB study are summaries of per-country rankings provided by think tanks, research firms and survey institutes around the globe;

WHEREAS, according to Aart Kraay, co-author of the report and lead economist in the Development Research Group of the World Bank, the good news is that some countries are recognizing and responding to governance challenges, and are showing strong improvements that reflect concerted efforts by political leaders, policymakers, civil society, and the private sector;

WHEREAS, this report highlights the serious challenges that remain for rich and poor countries alike, and draws attention to the well-established link between better governance and improved development results;

WHEREAS, these indicators should be used as an objective assessment of the current state of governance in the country and spur the concerted efforts of political leaders, policymakers, civil society, and the private sector to institute much-needed reforms;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on effecting reforms to improve the level of governance in the country.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/dpm