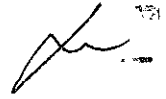


SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1314

RECEIVED



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 PROBE POSSIBLE
SYNDICATES OPERATING IN CITY HALLS

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 Daily Inquirer* in its 19 August 2009 issue reported that a syndicate was discovered to operate within the Manila city hall;

WHEREAS, it was alleged that Mayor Alfredo Lim has ordered a deeper probe into what appears to be a well-entrenched syndicate at city hall which was busted following the arrest of two employees who allegedly collected P5 million in salaries for 21 "ghost" employees;

WHEREAS, it was found that members of the "syndicate" would forge Lim's signature to facilitate the approval and release of the payroll money;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that the contracts of the consultants were also discovered to be fake;

WHEREAS, it was claimed that the city hall employees implicated in the scam were charged with malversation of public funds, swindling through falsification of public documents, and charges of violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act;

WHEREAS, local government units should conduct similar probes in their municipalities to determine if such illegal operations also take place within their jurisdiction;

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 probe possible syndicates operating in city halls.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO