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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 677

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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 IRREGULAR TRANSFER FROM FUNDS
OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(TESDA) TO NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

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 11 January 2011 issue reported that the Commission on Audit (COA) found that the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) had transferred transferring over P58 million to nongovernment organizations in 2005 and 2008 to implement a program that provided school supplies to students in Iloilo's second district;

WHEREAS, the report claimed that according to the COA, the transfer was highly irregular because it was not part of Tesda's mandate;

WHEREAS, the reported stated that in its 2010 report, COA found that P20 million from the agency's central office was granted to the Tagipusuon Cooperative, while P38.12 million from its Region VI office was transferred to the Tagipusuon Foundation;

WHEREAS, the report claimed that the Tesda director general at the time was Augusto Syjuco, the incumbent representative of Iloilo's second district who was also its congressman before he took the helm of Tesda; in the interim, his wife Judy Syjuco, won the congressional seat;

WHEREAS, according to the report, the Tagipusuon Cooperative's mandate was to implement livelihood projects and support the government and other organizations in sustainable socioeconomic development programs; however, the cooperative, the second congressional district of Iloilo and Tesda entered into an agreement to create the Expanded Education for All Program under which elementary and high school students were to be given uniforms, bags, notebooks and other school supplies and training materials;

WHEREAS, according to the COA, Tesda's mandate is to improve technical education and ensure skills development; therefore, the implementation of the project was clearly outside the ambit of Tesda's mandate and it was also not in accordance with the Tagipusuon Cooperative's primary purpose of planning and implementing livelihood projects;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that according to COA only P14.702 million was liquidated;


WHEREAS, COA also reportedly claimed that in 2006, the cooperative transferred P5 million to Tesda Region VI as part of its 50-percent share in Tesda's P10-million scholarship program; however, the funds remain unliquidated;

WHEREAS, although there are already existing laws with regard to penalizing the illegal transfer of funds, the legislature should create stricter measures to curtail such practices, which continue to exist despite such penalties;

WHEREAS, the legislature should also study the possibility of enacting a law that will prohibit or limit the term of members from the same family to hold high positions in the same administration, whether such positions have been acquired due to election or appointment;

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 irregular transfer of funds from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) to nongovernment organizations.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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