

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 518

RECEIVED BY: ji

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

URGENT RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE TO IMMEDIATELY SUMMON AS RESOURCE PERSON TO THE ONGOING PROBE INTO THE PORK BARREL SCAM, THE APPLICANT FOR STATE WITNESS DENNIS CUNANAN, FORMER HEAD OF THE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE CENTER

WHEREAS, in the front page of the *Philippine Star*, on Friday, 21 February 2014, the headline news states that Dennis Cunanan, former head of the Technology Resource Center (TRC), has applied for state witness, as revealed by Atty. Levito Baligod, lawyer of the pork barrel scam whistleblowers led by Benhur Luy;

WHEREAS, Cunanan is one of the respondents in the plunder and malversation complaint filed by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) with the Office of the Ombudsman in connection with the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) scam;

WHEREAS, Cunanan reportedly applied to be state witness in October 2013, and submitted an affidavit to the NBI; he purportedly wants to bare details of his dealings with Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. concerning the release of the latter's PDAF to dubious non-government organizations (NGOs) of Janet Lim-Napoles;

WHEREAS, Sen. Revilla, along with Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Jinggoy Estrada, is also a respondent in the plunder and malversation complaint with the Ombudsman;

WHEREAS, Atty. Baligod reportedly said that Cunanan's testimony is crucial because he was able to get Sen. Revilla himself to confirm over the phone that the signatures on some project endorsements favoring Napoles' NGOs were his;

WHEREAS, Cunanan reportedly cited an incident when Sen. Revilla gave him a dressing down for his failure to process a request from the latter; Cunanan and his staff allegedly had to work the whole day on December 23 just to process some papers demanded by Sen. Revilla;

WHEREAS, it is in the public's strong interest for Cunanan to testify before the Senate Blue Ribbon committee's ongoing hearing on the PDAF scam; he can divulge information on the criminal involvement of certain public officials in the scam, and how the scam is perpetuated through the exploitation of loopholes in the disbursement of government funds;

WHEREAS, the more eyewitnesses come forward, the stronger will be the case for plunder filed by the justice department before the Ombudsman; and consequently, the stronger will be the case for plunder filed by the Ombudsman with the Sandiganbayan. Hence, all due

haste should be made in order to encourage eyewitnesses to testify before the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, in order to enlighten and educate the public on the methodologies and strategies of corruption, particularly with respect to the pork barrel scam which has been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED IN THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the Senate Blue Ribbon committee to immediately summon as resource person to the ongoing probe into the pork barrel scam, the applicant for state witness Dennis Cunanan, former head of the Technology Resource Center.

Adopted,

mls

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO