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SENATE
P.S. Res **679**

RECEIVED BY: *ju*

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ELECTORAL REFORMS AND PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND REVISION OF CODES TO CONDUCT AN OMNIBUS REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF THE COUNTRY'S SUFFRAGE LAWS,¹ IN THE LIGHT OF THE CONTINUOUSLY ADVANCING AND EVOLVING TECHNOLOGIES AND PREVENTING FUTURE MORE SCHEMING ELECTION-RELATED FRAUD

WHEREAS, Philippines' electoral system took a huge setback, in terms of its integrity, accuracy and reliability, because of the infamous "Hello, Garci!" scandal that catapulted former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo into power for her second term in 2004;

WHEREAS, the above-mentioned scam was never resolved, perpetrators remain at large, and the Filipino people's clamor for changes and improvements in the country's electoral system's integrity, accuracy, reliability and efficiency still remains;

WHEREAS, in 2013, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) implemented the Automated Election System ("AES") in the entire country's local and national elections;

WHEREAS, the AES has been a success in terms of integrity, reliability, efficiency and swiftness in the counting of votes and proclamations of winners both in the local and national elections as compared to the previous manual elections;

¹ Election Code of the Philippines (Batas Pambansa 881), Republic Act. Nos. 8436, 9369, 7166, 6646, 8045 and 8173, among others.

WHEREAS, even if the AES had lessened human intervention, we ought not to be complacent that the AES is fool-proof, infallible and that previous electoral frauds and schemes can no longer be carried out because of the automation of elections;

WHEREAS, inasmuch as the AES had revolutionized and drastically changed the electoral system in terms of the introduction of technically advanced and modern hardware and software, we ought to correspondingly adjust to said technologies for us to be able to master the AES and effectively and truly safeguard its integrity, accuracy and reliability for subsequent elections;

WHEREAS, we must remain vigilant for future defrauders, schemers and cheaters in the AES;

WHEREAS, we should likewise rethink, re-assess, reconsider and review our existing election laws for said laws to properly cope with the changes that AES has brought about, as well as the ever-advancing technology involved;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to urge the Senate Committees on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation and Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes to conduct an omnibus review and assessment of the country's suffrage laws, with the objectives of introducing amendments, revisions and/or repeals; safeguarding the integrity, accuracy and reliability of the Automated Election System; coping up with the advancing technologies involved; and avoiding or preventing future election-related frauds.

Adopted,


GRACE POE