

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1209

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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 THE RECENT COMMISSION ON AUDIT (COA) REPORT THAT THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES (BFAR) FAILED TO ACCOUNT FOR ₱237.5 MILLION IT RECEIVED UNDER THE DISBURSEMENT ACCELERATION PROGRAM (DAP) AS OF 2013

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

WHEREAS, the Constitution also provides in Article 2, Section 28: “Subject to reasonable conditions prescribed by law, the State adopts and implements a policy of full public disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest”;

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Star* reported on 23 February 2015 that state auditors have questioned the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) for accounting of funds the agency received under the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) as of 2013;

WHEREAS, BFAR, an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture, allegedly received ₱237.5 million in DAP funds in 2011, to be used for mangrove rehabilitation, aquasilviculture, and hatchery projects in various parts of the country;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Audit (COA) in its 2013 report on BFAR noted that the agency failed to properly liquidate the DAP funds;

WHEREAS, the funds were reportedly transferred by BFAR regional offices to various state universities and colleges (SUCs) in the regions, except for ₱826,560, which was allotted to the central office;

WHEREAS, the COA said that as of 31 December 2013, BFAR regional offices have not yet submitted reports as to the fund utilization and project implementation in the regions due to the late submission of liquidation reports of recipient SUCs;

WHEREAS, DAP, a measure the Aquino administration forwarded to speed up government spending in an attempt to buoy the economy, has been declared partly unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, and has been discontinued;

WHEREAS, Congress, in exercising the power of the purse, must at the same time ensure that public funds are judiciously spent by agencies to which they have been allocated;

WHEREAS, transparency is a duty the government owes the Filipino people, from whom the power of the state emanates;

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 recent Commission on Audit (COA) report that the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) failed to account for ₱237.5 million under the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) as of 2013.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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