

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



'15 APR 29 AIO :22

SENATE
P.S. Resolution No 1306

RECEIVED BY: *J*

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS (BLUE RIBBON) TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED ILLEGAL AND ANOMALOUS EFFORTS IN THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS (BOC) TO RAISE CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION'S CANDIDATES FOR THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Whereas, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) is a government agency under the Department of Finance (DOF) in charge of imports, exports and foreign trade;

Whereas, the BOC is particularly mandated, among others, to assess and collect lawful revenues from imported articles and all other dues accruing under the tariff and customs laws, to prevent and suppress smuggling and other frauds upon the customs, and to supervise and control over the entrance and clearance of vessels and aircraft engaged in foreign commerce;

Whereas, John Phillip Sevilla was appointed as Commissioner of the BOC in December 2013, replacing resigned Commissioner Ruffy Biazon;

Whereas, in the recent weeks, Sevilla made public statements that he will not allow the Bureau to be used as a milking cow of political camps for campaign fundraising;

Whereas, not long after, last April 23, Commissioner Sevilla resigned due to "political pressure" related to the 2016 presidential elections;

Whereas, according to Sevilla, he received feelers around September or October 2014 that there are certain forces pushing for the appointment of Atty. Teddy Sandy S. Raval, currently chief of the BOC Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD), to head the Enforcement and Security Services (ESS);

Whereas, while the power to appoint to such position rests with the President, Sevilla opposed Atty. Raval's appointment and "felt wrong" about pushing political nominees in certain positions in the Bureau;

Whereas, a Customs official stated in an interview that the appointment of Atty. Raval as head of ESS may demoralize Customs intelligence and security personnel because he does not have military or police intelligence background, and worse, he is allegedly a known corrupt official;

Whereas, despite Sevilla's objections, he received information that Atty. Raval will still be appointed as director of ESS allegedly as proposed by Malacañang; thus Sevilla's resignation;

Whereas, according to a news report, Atty. Raval, in a meeting, "allegedly asked the traders and representatives of other groups doing business with the BOC to cough up an 'additional 'tara' of P6,000 per container' supposedly to raise funds for administration candidates in the 2016 elections";

Whereas, said report further state that "Raval allegedly claimed he arranged the meeting on behalf of two other customs deputy commissioners and had the blessings of Ochoa";

Whereas, there are reports that Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, Jr. has been pushing for the appointment of Atty. Raval since March;

Whereas, if reports are accurate, the appointment of officials of questionable qualifications and tarnished integrity by officials of the administration during this season when presidential elections is approaching is really doubtful and suspicious;

Whereas, there is a need to immediately investigate and address this matter to prevent the public money to be used for particular person's or groups political agenda;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Senate, that the Senate Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations (Blue Ribbon), conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the alleged illegal and anomalous efforts in the Bureau of Customs (BOC) to raise campaign funds for the Administration's candidates for the 2016 presidential elections

Adopted,


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator