

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



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1358

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT REPORT THAT ₱670 MILLION IN PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND AND DEVELOPMENT ACCELERATION PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS FOR FILIPINO MUSLIMS WENT TO DUBIOUS NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

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 states, 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* on 29 April 2015 reported that ₱670.3 million in lawmakers' Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) and Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) allocations for Filipino Muslims went to questionable non-government organizations (NGOs) in 2013;

WHEREAS, quoting the state auditors, the report said that of the ₱670.3 million the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) received in 2013, it released ₱155.596 million to various groups unlawfully identified by the legislators;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Audit questioned such practice, noting that it violated rules on the selection of NGO beneficiaries, which, should have been undertaken by the NCMF, not the legislators;

WHEREAS, apart from the unlawful selection process for beneficiaries, the COA also claimed that of the 21 NGOs that received PDAF or DAP funds, 12 were without offices at given addresses, 10 with unlocated addresses, seven with located addresses but unknown in the area, and one with located address but already moved out;

WHEREAS, 18 of the NGOs were also allegedly without financial and accounting records, while another 18 purportedly has no separate savings account;

WHEREAS, state auditors also claimed that the documents supporting the transfer of ₱670.3 million to NGOs, and the liquidation of sum ₱451.8 million of that amount, were insufficient;

1 WHEREAS, some ₱324.7 million worth of projects also allegedly lacked various
2 documents and proof of proper utilization;

3 WHEREAS, upon ascertaining the veracity of reports from the COA, Congress must
4 determine the accountability of its members who allocated their PDAF funds to NCMF and
5 identified NGO beneficiaries;

6 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
7 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the on the
8 Commission on Audit report that ₱670 million in Priority Development Assistance Fund and
9 Development Acceleration Program allocations for Filipino Muslims went to dubious non-
10 government organizations.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO