

'15 MAY 18 P4:33

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1362

RECEIVED BY: J.

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES HAS WASTED PUBLIC FUNDS ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS NATIONAL GREENING PROGRAM

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 Daily Inquirer* on 24 April 2015 reported that the ₱7.2-billion National Greening Program (NGP) and the land survey project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) were unsuccessful;

WHEREAS, quoting state auditors, the news said that the agency undertook the tree-planting program and the cadastral survey project covering 10 regions of the country without an efficient and effective system of implementing and monitoring projects;

WHEREAS, in its scrutiny of the agency's projects in 2013, the Commission on Audit found out that DENR did not put up measures to ensure the viability of the National Greening Program causing the agency to plant trees even nonplantable areas because it did not conduct mapping and planning;

WHEREAS, among the findings by the COA were the delay in the delivery of seedlings that resulted in the untimely planting which happened at the end of the rainy season, thus, giving the planted seedlings a very short period to recover and withstand the onset of the dry season;

WHEREAS, the National Greening Program has a total budget of ₱7.2 billion within a 4-year period—₱5.9 for the tree planting project and ₱1.3 billion—for the land survey, with the aim of planting 1.5 billion trees over 1.5 million hectares of public land;

WHEREAS, the report also found various deficiencies in the two projects which led to low accomplishments and survival rates of tree saplings, noncompliance with the work and financial plan, delay in the delivery of seedlings and failure to finish the projects;


1 WHEREAS, these failures resulted in delayed benefits that could have been derived from
2 the completion of the NGP and the cadastral surveys contrary to NGP implementation manual,
3 applicable DENR circulars and other regulations;

4 WHEREAS, the report also assailed the DENR's lack of transparency, competitiveness
5 and accountability in the procurement process for spending ₱31.6 million in the purchase of
6 goods and services through deficient public biddings;

7 WHEREAS, Congress, alongside its exercise of the power of the purse, must ensure that
8 all public funds are judiciously used;

9 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
10 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that the
11 Department of Environment and Natural Resources has wasted public funds in the
12 implementation of its National Greening Program.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
JP

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