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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1369

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 RESOLUTION  
2 DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE  
3 TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
4 ON THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT REPORT THAT  
5 ₱2.2 BILLION IN DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM ALLOCATIONS  
6 REMAINED UNACCOUNTED FOR AS OF THE END OF 2014

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

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

13 WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin* on 18 May 2015 reported that ₱2.2 billion in funds  
14 spent for various tourism projects of the Department of Tourism (DOT) in 2013 remained  
15 unaccounted for as of the end of that year;

16 WHEREAS, quoting state auditors, the news said that the amount included both regular  
17 allocations and funds from the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP);

18 WHEREAS, the Commission on Audit (COA) claimed that of the unliquidated funds of  
19 some ₱2 billion, a total of ₱1.63 billion were transferred to the Department of Public Works and  
20 Highways and the National Parks Development Committee;

21 WHEREAS, the transferred funds were allegedly used for the DPWH’s Convergence  
22 Program in Enhancing Tourist Access and the NPDC’s Kilometer Zero National Monument  
23 Hardscape and Softscape Redevelopment Project;

24 WHEREAS, a total of ₱1,777,226,000 was reportedly transferred to the DPWH but only  
25 ₱145,956,392 was justified, leaving an unliquidated balance of ₱1,631,269,608;

26 WHEREAS, the COA further claimed that the partial liquidation of funds transferred to  
27 the DPWH were dubious, due to discrepancies amounting to some ₱333 million;

1           WHEREAS, the NPDC purportedly received ₱207 million in transfers and has yet to  
2 liquidate the full amount;

3           WHEREAS, apart from unliquidated funds, the COA also flagged the DOT for officials  
4 who state auditors want charged for alleged failure to settle audit disallowances amounting to a  
5 total of ₱183,353,999.11;

6           WHEREAS, bulk of the disallowed disbursements reportedly pertain to unliquidated  
7 travelling expenses, daily subsistence allowance for foreign travel and financial assistance  
8 granted to non-government organizations;

9           WHEREAS, the government is highlighting tourism's contribution to the national  
10 economy and is justified in allocating funds to support the industry growth, but it must ensure  
11 that public funds are judiciously used;

12           WHEREAS, Congress must strengthen existing legislation to ensure strict compliance in  
13 the liquidation of public funds;

14           WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct  
15 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the Commission on  
16 Audit report that ₱2.2 billion in Department of Tourism allocations remained unaccounted for as  
17 of the end of 2014.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
RP

/tsc