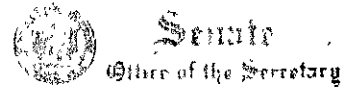


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



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SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 1401

RECEIVED BY: *J*

Introduced by SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO LOOK INTO THE MANDATE, POWERS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PHILIPPINE RACING COMMISSION (PHILRACOM), A GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATION CREATED UNDER PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 420, WITH THE END VIEW OF INTRODUCING REFORMS, REVISIONS, AND AMENDMENTS TO ITS CHARTER, IF NECESSARY, TO ENSURE THAT ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS ARE RELEVANT AND COULD ADDRESS ITS MANDATED OBJECTIVES AS WELL AS THE VARIOUS CONCERNS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH OF THE PRESENT HORSE RACING INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 17 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development;

WHEREAS, Article XII, Section 16 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that the Congress shall not, except by general law, provide for the formation, organization, or regulation of private corporations. Government-owned or controlled corporations may be created or established by special charters in the interest of the common good and subject to the test of economic viability;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Racing Commission (PHILRACOM) was established under Presidential Decree 420 on 20 March 1974 to promote and direct the accelerated development and continued growth of horse-racing not only in pursuance of the sports development program but also in order to insure the full exploitation of the sport as a source of revenue and employment¹;

WHEREAS, the objectives of the PHILRACOM include, among others: the promotion and maintenance of efficient and unbiased operation of horse-racing; the raising of public confidence in horse-racing; and (3) the improvement of the breed of Philippine horses and prevention of illegal importation of racehorses²;

WHEREAS, PHILRACOM has jurisdiction over every aspect of the conduct of horse racing, including the framing and scheduling of races, the construction and safety of horse racing, the allocation of prizes and the security of racing;

¹ Section 2, Presidential Decree No. 420.

² Section 3, Presidential Decree No. 420.

WHEREAS, horse racing industry has been in existence in the Philippines for over 100 years dating back to 1867 and has been acknowledged as a grand sports of gentlemen;

WHEREAS, the horse racing industry enjoys a robust combination of stakeholders, which include the horse owners, race track owners, trainers, jockeys, stable hands, ranch workers, feed suppliers, operators and tellers of off track betting (OTB) stations, and the expectators fondly called the "*Bayang Kareristas*"; and thus, employs a considerable number of employees that serve in the ranches, farms, race tracks, and OTBs;

WHEREAS, the horse racing industry, once considered as one of the more popular recreations in the country, has of late been experiencing challenges and concerns, such as decrease in the registration of horses and horse owners, lean attendance at racetracks, unimpressive revenues, and unsteady employment in the industry;

WHEREAS, to address the said challenges and concerns, there is a need to adopt measures to revitalize and bring growth to the horse racing industry;

WHEREAS, considering that the concerned government agency for horse racing, the PHILRACOM, has been in existence and operating for over forty (40) years, its charter only undergoing two minor amendments³, a review of its charter becomes necessary in order to ensure that its powers and functions are still relevant and could address its mandated objectives as well as the various concerns and opportunities for growth of the horse racing industry;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the Senate Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to look into the mandate, powers, and responsibilities of the Philippine Racing Commission, a government-owned and controlled corporation created under Presidential Decree No. 420, with the end in view of introducing reforms, revisions, and amendments to its charter, if necessary, to ensure that its powers and functions are still relevant and could address its mandated objectives as well as the various concerns and opportunities for growth of the present horse racing industry.

Adopted,


CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

³ Presidential Decree No. 1095 (1977) and Republic Act No. 7324 (1992).