

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1481

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE  
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
ON THE REPORT THAT ILLEGAL FIXING REMAINS RAMPANT  
IN THE QUEZON CITY HALL

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 27 provides: "The State shall maintain  
2 honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft  
3 and corruption;"

4 WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin* on 5 July 2015 reported that employees of Quezon City  
5 Hall have returned to old tactics to extort money from local businessmen;

6 WHEREAS, the *Bulletin* quoted a restaurant owner who complained that City Hall  
7 employees are again using so-called Letters of Authority (LOA) to look into the financial records  
8 of establishments which they suspect of misdeclaring their true earnings;

9 WHEREAS, the LOA is allegedly used as an instrument of extortion and corruption, and  
10 Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista has stopped its use last year;

11 WHEREAS, the city government has also reportedly passed an ordinance that granted  
12 amnesty to local businesses and exempted them from having books, business records, audited  
13 financial statements, and other similar documents from being inspected in 2014, provided that  
14 owners pay their business taxes thirty percent higher than taxes in the previous fiscal year;


15 WHEREAS, in the 2015 World Bank Doing Business Report, the Philippines ranked 95<sup>th</sup>  
16 overall in ease of doing business, its performance largely affected by difficulty in securing  
17 business registration and permits, among other factors;

18 WHEREAS, despite Republic Act No. 9485, also known as the "Anti-Red Tape Act of  
19 2007," fixers continue to loiter in city and municipal halls and provincial capitols, doing regular  
20 fixing transactions in local government offices;

21 WHEREAS, Congress must strengthen existing legislation with the goal of curbing if not  
22 totally eliminating, the prevalent practice of illegal fixing;

23           WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct  
24 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that illegal  
25 fixing remains rampant in the Quezon City Hall;

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
RP

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