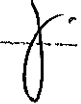


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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1515

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 THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS  
HAS FAILED TO SECURE A FINANCIAL BIDDER FOR THE UPGRADE  
OF PRECINCT COUNT OPTICAL SCAN MACHINES

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 provides: “The maintenance of peace  
2 and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare  
3 are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy”;

4 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Star* on 4 August 2015 reported that the Commission on  
5 Elections (Comelec) has failed to secure a financial bidder for the upgrade of precinct count  
6 optical scan (PCOS) machines to be used in the 2016 national elections;

7 WHEREAS, the first bidding for the refurbishment of the PCOS machines has allegedly  
8 been declared a failure after service providers Smartmatic-TIM, Indra Sistemas S.A., and Vertex  
9 Business Applications withdrew from bidding, citing the reduction of the budget from P2.8  
10 billion to P2 billion as their reason for withdrawal;

11 WHEREAS, the second bidding for the refurbishment of the PCOS machines has also  
12 purportedly been declared a failure after Smartmatic-TIM and Miru Systems Co. withdrew from  
13 bidding, citing the congested timeframe of restoring the PCOS machines in time for use during  
14 the 2016 national elections;

15 WHEREAS, the joint venture of Dermalog Identification Systems GmbH, Avante  
16 Technology, and Stone of David Technical Equipment, the third bidder during the second  
17 bidding, has reportedly been declared ineligible by the Special Bids and Awards Committee;

18 WHEREAS, the Comelec *en banc* has not decided on resorting to negotiated or direct  
19 contracting to secure a bidder for the refurbishment of the PCOS machines;

20 WHEREAS, the government is duty-bound to protect the sanctity of votes by putting in  
21 place safeguards before, during, and immediately after they are cast;

22 WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, must help ensure the success of  
23 competitive bidding for election equipment and paraphernalia;

1           WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct  
2 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that the  
3 Commission on Elections has failed to secure a bidder for the refurbishment of precinct count  
4 optical scan machines to be used in the 2016 national elections.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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/jsjn