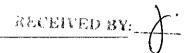




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## Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

## RESOLUTION

## DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT 47 LEGISLATORS SPENT \$\mathbb{P}\$141 MILLION IN DISBURSEMENT ACCELERATION PROGRAM FUNDS FOR MILK FEEDING

WHEREAS, the Constitution provides, in Article 2, Sections 27 and 28:

SECTION 27. The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption.

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 Star* on 13 August 2015 reported that 47 legislators used **P**141 million in Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) funds for milk feeding programs from 2011 to 2014;

WHEREAS, the news quoted the recently released Commission on Audit (COA) report on the National Dairy Authority (NDA), which showed that the agency received total DAP funding of \$\mathbb{P}213.116\$ million in 2014, and used \$\mathbb{P}141.313\$ million of that total by 31 December 2014;

WHEREAS, the allocation for milk feeding programs defeated the purpose of the DAP, which the government intended for high-impact and priority programs;

WHEREAS, the said fund was reportedly intended for the milk feeding program of 53 legislators and a foundation under the Dairy Enterprise Development Program funded by DAP in 2011;

WHEREAS, the remaining ₽71.803 was reportedly returned to the Bureau of Treasury in March 2015, following the Supreme Court decision striking down the DAP as unconstitutional;

WHEREAS, state auditors also allegedly criticized the unauthorized grant of honoraria to the bids and awards committee amounting to £136,759;

WHEREAS, the Department of Budget and Management defends the DAP as a reform intervention to speed up public spending and ultimately boost economic growth;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court ruling on DAP notwithstanding, the Congress must ensure that public funds are used for high-impact and priority programs;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that 47 legislators spent \$\mathbb{P}\$141 million in Disbursement Acceleration Program funds for milk feeding.

Adopted,

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MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIACO

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