

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

15 SEP -1 P3:03

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1554

RECEIVED BY: J

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT REPORT THAT THE BOARD OF CLAIMS UNDER
THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FAILED TO RETURN MORE THAN ₱136 MILLION
FROM THE ACCUMULATED VICTIMS COMPENSATION FUND TO THE NATIONAL
TREASURY IN 2014

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, Executive Order No. 338, which directs the deposit of cash balances to the
5 National Treasury provides: "All existing balances of trust receipts deposited with authorized
6 government depository banks or any forthcoming trust receipt which are intended to be deposited
7 with authorized government depository banks are hereby required to be deposited also with the
8 National Treasury";

9 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7309 also known as "An Act Creating a Board of Claims
10 under the Department of Justice for Victims of Unjust Imprisonment or Detention and Victims
11 of Violent Crimes and for other purposes," Section 9 provides: "To ensure the continuity of the
12 funding requirements under this Act, the amount of five pesos shall be set aside from each filing
13 fee in every civil case filed with the court, the total proceeds of which shall constitute the Victim
14 Compensation Fund (VCF) to be administered by the Department of Justice";

15 WHEREAS, based on the 2014 COA report, the VCF maintained at the Land Bank of the
16 Philippines has an accumulated balance of ₱136,777,486.94;

17 WHEREAS, since 2008, state auditors have already included in their audit observation
18 such undue accumulation of the VCF and even recommended for the immediate remittance of
19 the balance to the National Treasury;

20 WHEREAS, until 2014, the VCF was incessantly utilized for the payment of expenses
21 for BOC, such as office supplies, honorarium, office equipment, contrary to its legislated
22 purpose and should have been charged to the General Fund;

23 WHEREAS, it is imperative for Board of Claims to comply with the law in order to
24 ensure that funds will be available for the grant of claims for victims of unjust imprisonment or
25 detention and victims of violent crimes under the General Appropriations Act;

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 Commission on
3 Audit report that the Board of Claims under the Department of Justice failed to return more than
4 ₱136 million worth of accumulated Victims Compensation Fund to the National Treasury.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO