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SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Third Regular Session

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SENATE P. S. R. No. **1585**

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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 RECENT COMMISSION ON AUDIT REPORT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WASTED #201.53 MILLION OF UNDRAWN OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUNDS
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 Commission on Audit (COA) claimed that #201.53 million in public
funds have been wasted as the national government failed to draw ₽307.03 billion in Official
Development Assistance (ODA) funds from foreign creditors in 2014;
WHEREAS, the recently released COA Report on ODA programs and projects revealed that the national government has a net loan commitment amounting to $P1.39$ trillion, $P1.08$ trillion of which has already been availed by the government as of 31 December 2014;
WHEREAS, the ODA funds were purportedly utilized to fund 354 programs and projects;
WHEREAS, state auditors claimed that of the total projects and programs, 280 were completed, 57 were ongoing, while nine were not yet implemented;
WHEREAS, this left a total undrawn amount of ₽307.03 billion (US\$6.86 billion), which
is equivalent to 22.14 percent of the total net commitments of the government;
WHEREAS, state auditors also disclosed that the government's total repayment of ODA loans as of 31 December 2014 reached ₽372.56 billion;
WHEREAS, as of the end of 2014, the government had an outstanding ODA loan balance
of $P706.98$ billion, $P10.19$ billion higher than last year's balance of $P696.79$ billion;

WHEREAS, the Congress, through relevant legislation, should draft and implement
 efficient utilization schemes for ODA funds;

WHEREAS, the Congress should also put in place mechanisms to monitor timely disbursement of funds and delivery of goods and services so as not to defeat the purpose of loans or grants from foreign creditors;

6 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
7 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the recent
8 Commission on Audit Report that the government wasted #201.53 million of undrawn Official
9 Development Assistance funds.

Adopted,

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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