


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

15 SEP 21 P2:22

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. **1590**

RECEIVED BY: 

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 CITING THE TOTAL FAILURE OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT IN RELIEF WORK

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

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

4 Section 28. Subject to reasonable conditions prescribed by law, the State  
5 adopts and implements a policy of full public disclosure of all its transactions  
6 involving public interest.

7 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 5416, otherwise known as the Social Welfare Act of 1968  
8 provides: "It shall be the responsibility of the Government to provide a comprehensive program  
9 of social welfare services designed to ameliorate the living conditions of distressed Filipinos  
10 particularly those who are handicapped by reason of poverty, youth, physical and mental  
11 disability, illness and old age or who are victims of natural calamities including assistance to  
12 members of the cultural minorities to facilitate their integration into the body politic";

13 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 13 September 2015 quoted a recent  
14 Commission on Audit (COA) report, which cited the failure of the Department of Social Welfare  
15 and Development (DSWD) in implementing its relief and poverty alleviation programs;

16 WHEREAS, state auditors claimed that DSWD inefficiencies resulted in millions of  
17 pesos worth of unused cash donations and food aid wasted, chronic multiple entries in the  
18 conditional cash transfer program, and delays and shortcomings in the delivery of social services,  
19 among other failings;

20 WHEREAS, according to the COA report, ₱382.072 million of the ₱1.151 billion that the  
21 DSWD received from November 2013 to December 2014 in local and foreign cash donations for  
22 the victims of super typhoon Yolanda, were kept idle in DSWD bank accounts;

23 WHEREAS, the COA claimed that the DSWD, in effect, denied disaster victims and  
24 beneficiaries of the immediate assistance due them;

1           WHEREAS, the COA also reportedly said that the DSWD had been left with ₱141.084  
2 million worth of undistributed and expired or near-expiry food packs – a package containing six  
3 kilograms of rice, four tins of sardines, four tins of corned beef, eight packs of instant noodles  
4 and eight sachets of instant coffee;

5           WHEREAS, state auditors cited abysmal management on the part of the DSWD as it  
6 continued to procure and accept relief goods without taking into consideration the absorptive  
7 capacity and condition of its warehousing facilities and personnel, available stocks, shelf life or  
8 expiry dates, and the actual needs of the victims;

9           WHEREAS, the COA also cited the lack of documentation in the distribution of relief  
10 goods;

11           WHEREAS, besides criticizing the DSWD relief programs, the COA cited duplicate or  
12 multiple entries on the list of beneficiaries of the multibillion-peso cash transfer program, or the  
13 Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps);

14           WHEREAS, unclaimed 4Ps cash grants amounting to ₱312 million were also allegedly  
15 left idle in the Landbank of the Philippines;

16           WHEREAS, the COA also noted that in the last three years, Landbank earned a windfall  
17 of ₱744 million in service fees on 4Ps transactions that were done over the counter and not  
18 through ATM cards;

19           WHEREAS, state auditors also claimed that the DSWD supplemental feeding program  
20 suffered delays because of poor coordination and monitoring between its regional offices and  
21 partner agencies, including the Department of Education and local government units;

22           WHEREAS, the COA further alleged that the DSWD failed to reach the 80 percent  
23 performance target for its Kapit-bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated  
24 Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS), with only 33.47 percent of projects worth  
25 ₱353.693 million completed out of the programmed ₱1.319 billion;

26           WHEREAS, state auditors also criticized the DSWD for delays and non-payments in its  
27 Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens (SPISC) program, with 55,496 of the 116,637  
28 beneficiaries failing to claim their pensions;


29           WHEREAS, the COA also charged that the DSWD was remiss in the fulfilling of its  
30 commitment in the Emergency Shelter Assistance (ESA) program, as it has only spent ₱3 billion  
31 to serve 142,348 beneficiaries, or just 30 percent of the 468,732 targeted homeless beneficiaries;

1           WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, should develop more effective and  
2 efficient strategies to properly utilize emergency funds;

3           WHEREAS, it is also imperative for Congress to strengthen legislation, with the goal of  
4 ensuring that social welfare programs and services are effectively managed and implemented;

5           WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct  
6 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the recent  
7 Commission on Audit report citing the total failure of the Department of Social Welfare and  
8 Development in relief work.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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