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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1617

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 AUDIT FLAGGED THE METRO
MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR ITS BEAUTIFICATION OF A PASAY CITY
ROTUNDA SET TO BE DEMOLISHED AND PURCHASE OF FISHING BOATS FOR
YOLANDA VICTIMS IN EASTERN SAMAR

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 28, provides: “Subject to reasonable
2 conditions prescribed by law, the State adopts and implements a policy of full public disclosure
3 of all its transactions involving public interest”;

4 WHEREAS, various newspapers on 21 September 2015 reported that the Commission on
5 Audit (COA) criticized the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) for wasting
6 government funds for the beautification of Circulo del Rotunda near Ninoy Aquino International
7 Airport Terminal 3, which was set to be demolished in 2014;

8 WHEREAS, records allegedly show that the MMDA could have avoided incurring
9 ₱803,000.00 in unnecessary expense for the installation of park lamps worth ₱ 308,000 in 2012,
10 and the delivery of 150 trees worth a total of ₱495,00 in 2013;

11 WHEREAS, the COA reportedly dismissed the defense that the lamps were installed to
12 improve the peace and order situation in the area, noting that the MMDA used stylish instead of
13 simple street lamps;

14 WHEREAS, state auditors also questioned the MMDA’s explanation that the trees were
15 used for a nursery and not a garden, noting that the trees purchased were already 10 to 15 feet tall
16 and no longer needed a nursery;

17 WHEREAS, the COA also allegedly flagged the MMDA for using ₱891,000 for fishing
18 boats for Yolanda victims in 2014;

19 WHEREAS, the COA further said that the 20 pump boats purchased by the MMDA were
20 distributed to the municipality of Sulat, Eastern Samar only in July 2014, and the 10 fishing
21 boats to same local government unit only in December 2014;

1 WHEREAS, state auditors claimed that the MMDA donated boats only eight months to a
2 year after typhoon Yolanda hit, placing the donations outside of early recovery assistance
3 contemplated under the law;

4 WHEREAS, state auditors reportedly said the MMDA is supposed to act only with
5 regards to disaster response and not rehabilitation and recovery, for which the National
6 Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) is the overall responsible agency;

7 WHEREAS, although recognizing the prerogative of the MMDA to extend assistance to
8 disaster victims outside Metro Manila, the COA said such assistance must be coursed through
9 authorized agencies;

10 WHEREAS, the Congress in review of the proposed 2016 budget of the MMDA must
11 command improved compliance to existing laws on the use of the funds;

12 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
13 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that the
14 Commission on Audit flagged the Metro Manila Development Authority for its beautification of
15 a Pasay City rotunda set to be demolished and purchase of fishing boats for Yolanda victims in
16 Eastern Samar.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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