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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1711

RECEIVED BY: 

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 ON THE DELAYED RELEASE OF
CASH AID FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VICTIMS

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 9, provides: "The State shall promote a
2 just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and
3 free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full
4 employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

5 WHEREAS, *GMA News Online* on 16 December 2015 reported that the Commission on
6 Human Rights (CHR) failed to release last year a total of ₱1.352 million financial assistance to
7 victims of human rights violations in 2014;

8 WHEREAS, the report quoted the Commission on Audit (COA), which said that the
9 amount, allocated to 361 victims of human rights violations in the Zamboanga Peninsula Region,
10 remained unreleased to the victims by the end of 2014, and were granted to the victims only in
11 February 2015, in violation of CHR guidelines on claims;

12 WHEREAS, the COA cited CHR Resolution No. A-96-060, which says that victims or
13 heirs of victims of human rights violations are entitled to financial assistance that should be
14 released in a speedy manner;

15 WHEREAS, the CHR Resolution also reportedly limits the processing of regular
16 financial assistance should only be 44 days and 42 minutes for regional offices and 83 days and
17 42 minutes for the Commission *en banc*;

18 WHEREAS, in a letter of reply to the COA report, the CHR Region 9 management
19 reportedly said the delay in the release of the financial assistance was due to the delay in the
20 transfer of funds from the central office; limited time and manpower; and shortage in blank
21 checks;

22 WHEREAS, Congress should examine the system in granting claims to ensure efficiency
23 and to prevent further delays;

- 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 on the delayed release of cash aid for human rights victims.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
DR

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