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Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE  
P.S. Resolution No. 212

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

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**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR THE NEGROS ISLAND REGION AND ITS PEOPLE**

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 183, signed on May 29, 2015, mandated the creation of a unified Negros Island Region (NIR), bringing together Negros Oriental, Negros Occidental, and all the cities, municipalities and barangays comprising the two adjacent provinces;

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 183 was enacted "to further accelerate the social and economic development of the cities and municipalities comprising the provinces of Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental and improve the delivery of public services in the aforementioned provinces.";

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the said Executive Order, a Negros Island Technical Working Group (TWG) was constituted to formulate a Roadmap to put in place the institutional arrangements for the NIR by 2016, recommending the Regional Center, and arranging for the organizational development, staffing, and budgeting requirements of regional line and regulatory agencies, as well as the imperatives for development planning and investment programming. The TWG is composed of the Office of the President (OP), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the representatives of the Provinces of Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental;

**WHEREAS**, also in accordance with the Executive Order, Negros Island Councils for (1) Development, (2) Peace and Order and (3) Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM), were constituted with NEDA, DILG, and the Office of Civil Defense serving as the interim secretariats for the respective Councils;

**WHEREAS**, according to reports, Budget Secretary Ben Diokno had expressed concerns regarding the cost to government of supporting the operation of the region. He further noted that there was no allocation for the NIR

in the 2016 General Appropriations Act (GAA) or in the 2017 proposed national budget;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, beyond the short term budget concerns, there is a need for the national government to consider and assess the broader potential and long term impact of having an administration center in the Negros Island, enabling greater efficiency in the planning and implementation of development projects, and better and faster delivery of government services to Negrenses;

**WHEREAS**, the creation of the Negros Island Region and integration of the Negros provinces as envisioned in Executive Order 183 addresses a deep and long-held aspiration among the Negrense people to progress as one region. Abolishing the NIR now would not only disregard and render futile the plans and commitments already made in fulfillment of this aspiration, but also deprive the Negrense people of a critical pathway to economic development and poverty alleviation in the region;

**RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Philippine Senate to direct the appropriate Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the national government's plans for the Negros Island Region and its people.

Adopted,

*Bam Aquino*

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<sup>1</sup> <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/824278/duterte-set-to-sign-eo-dissolving-negros-island-region-diokno#ixzz4NhZnZE3u>