

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 109

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS  
AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF  
LEGISLATION ON THE ALLEGED UNNECESSARY AND UNJUSTIFIED  
PURCHASE OF EXPENSIVE PAINTINGS BY THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE  
INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS)

WHEREAS, it was reported in an article in the *Philippine Star* published 23 September 2004 that the Government Service Insurance System plans to purchase more artwork by Fernando Amorsolo and other known painters;

WHEREAS, GSIS President and General Manager Winston Garcia claimed that paintings are better investments than government securities because government securities depreciate in value whereas paintings have never depreciated over time;

WHEREAS, Garcia further claimed that the acquisition of GSIS of over 300 pieces of art, including paintings for its museum, satisfies investment requirements for liquidations, safety, and security;

WHEREAS, according to the same article, a recent report by the Commission on Audit revealed that the agency's purchase of a painting by Juan Luna was "morally objectionable." GSIS purchased the painting of Juan Luna, entitled "Parisian Life," for \$800,000.00 during a public auction in Hong Kong;

WHEREAS, according to the same article, there have also been reports that these expensive paintings valued at approximately P262.5million were missing;

WHEREAS, given the present financial situation of the government, its agencies should play active part in the austerity program of the country and refrain from using government funds for unjustified and unnecessary expenditures.

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate, to direct the *Senate Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises* to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the alleged unjustified and unnecessary purchase of expensive paintings by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

Adopted.

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO