

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

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SENATE  
P.S.R. No. 201

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Introduced by Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr.

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RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS  
(SENATE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE) TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE REPORTED PARTIALITY AND  
INVOLVEMENT IN CORRUPTION OF SOME COMMISSIONERS OF THE NATIONAL  
LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION (NLRC) AND LABOR ARBITERS  
IN THEIR RESOLUTION OF CASES BEFORE THE NLRC.

WHEREAS, Section 3, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution in part provides:

The State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all.

It shall guarantee the rights of all workers to self-organization, collective bargaining and negotiations, and peaceful concerted activities, including the right to strike in accordance with law. They shall be entitled to security of tenure, humane conditions of work, and a living wage. They shall also participate in policy and decision-making processes affecting their rights and benefits as may be provided by law.

WHEREAS, to carry out this constitutional mandate and ensure full protection to labor, the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) was created by the Labor Code to hear and decide impartially and promptly all labor-related cases filed before it.

WHEREAS, to emphasize the importance of the task given the NLRC and Labor Arbiters, the Labor Code provides that the salary, benefits and other emoluments of the Chairman and members of the NLRC shall be equivalent to those of the Presiding Justice and Associate Justices of the Court of Appeals, respectively. The Labor Code also provides that the Executive Labor Arbiter shall receive an annual salary at least equivalent to that of Assistant Regional Director

of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and shall be entitled to the same allowances as that of a Regional Director of the DOLE. Furthermore, it provides that Labor Arbiters shall receive an annual salary which is at least equivalent to the same allowances and benefits as that of an Assistant Regional Director of the DOLE.

WHEREAS, to make clear its mandate to render impartial and swift justice to litigants before them, Labor Arbiters have been tasked by the law with exclusive jurisdiction to hear and decide unfair labor practices cases, termination disputes, and others within thirty calendar days after the submission of the case by the parties for decision, WITHOUT EXTENSION EVEN THE ABSENCE OF THE STENOGRAPHIC NOTES.

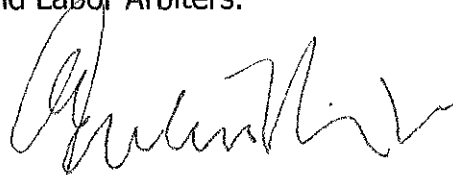
WHEREAS, very unfortunately, complaints have repeatedly reached the Senate that some Commissioners and Labor Arbiters of the NLRC have failed in their mandate to render impartial and swift justice to litigants before the said labor body.

WHEREAS, there are also complaints of corruption committed by some NLRC Commissioners and Labor Arbiters in their resolution of NLRC cases.

WHEREAS, there is an urgent and long delayed need to look into these complaints to ascertain the truth and erase any doubts about the integrity of the NLRC.

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the Senate Committee on Labor and Employment and the Senate Committee on the Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations (Senate Blue Ribbon Committee) to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation into these reports of partiality, delay and corruption within the NLRC. It is resolved further for this purpose that the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment be required to submit to the Senate: (1) a detailed accomplishment report of the NLRC showing the number of cases filed with it and resolved in the past ten years; (2) a status report on all cases pending before the NLRC and Labor Arbiters including information on how long these cases have been pending; (3) a report on how many cases decided by Labor Arbiters have been reversed by the NLRC in the past 10 years; (4) a report on how many cases decided by the NLRC have been reversed by Court of Appeals and Supreme Court for the same period; (5) a report on the qualifications of Labor Arbiters and how they are chosen; (6) a report on how cases are assigned to NLRC Commissioners and Labor Arbiters; who monitors compliance with Labor Code provisions on the period within which to resolve these cases; the penalties imposed, if any, upon Labor Arbiters who do not comply with said requirements; and (7) sample rulings of the NLRC and Labor Arbiters.

Adopted.



**AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR.**