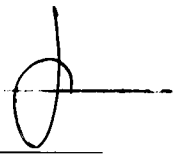


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

24 JAN 10 P 6 :05

SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 902

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

**A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED PAY-OFFS AND
MISREPRESENTATIONS IN THE SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN FOR PEOPLE'S
INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article II of the 1987 Constitution declares that the Philippines is a democratic and republican State and that sovereignty resides in the people and all government authority emanates from them;

WHEREAS, Section 27, of the same Article of the 1987 Constitution requires the State to maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption;

WHEREAS, Section 2, Article XVII of the Constitution provides that amendments to the Constitution may be directly proposed by the people through initiative upon a petition of at least twelve per centum of the total number of registered voters, of which every legislative district must be represented by at least three per centum of the registered voters therein;

WHEREAS, in an online article published by GMA Integrated News on 08 January 2024, it was reported that certain lawmakers claim that coordinators of a certain party-list group received an unspecified amount of money to ensure that their constituents will provide the required three percent of total voters per municipality for a People's Initiative to amend the Constitution to gain ground;

WHEREAS, according to Albay 1st District Representative Edcel Lagman, Albay's League of Mayors were called for a general meeting at Ellis Hotel in Legazpi City, allegedly owned by Ako Bicol Representative Zaldy Co, on 05 January 2023, without telling the mayors about the specific agenda. Lagman further stated that voters who would sign the petition or People's Initiative will be given Php 100.00 each;

WHEREAS, in an interview conducted by News 5 and aired on its "Youtube" channel, one resident of Quezon City admitted that she attended a meeting of solo-

parents on 06 January whereby she was made to sign a document on the pretext that the same was for the distribution of aid in the amount of Php 3,000.00. Aforementioned document later turned out to be for a People's Initiative petition to amend the Constitution;

WHEREAS, in another report by News 5 which was also aired on social media, personnel of the media outfit were able to observe an alleged employee of Quezon City hall going house-to-house to obtain the signatures and the voting precinct numbers of residents in the area. Some of the residents reportedly signed the document being peddled on the belief that it was for the distribution of government aid when, in fact, it was a petition for a People's Initiative to amend the Constitution;

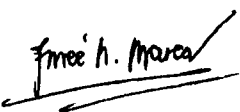
WHEREAS, there are also reports that Php 20 million was allegedly offered to each congressional district that could deliver the needed number of signatures that could support the People's Initiative to amend the Constitution;

WHEREAS, these reported pay-offs in the signature campaign for a People's Initiative to amend the Constitution and the blatant manner by which ordinary citizens, particularly those in need of government aid, are being misled and exploited, are unconscionable acts of corruption which are inimical to the very concept of democracy;

WHEREAS, there is a need to put a stop to these corrupt activities and ensure that any petition for a People's Initiative to amend the Constitution is filed with the full consent and free will of the people;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, directing the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the alleged pay-offs and misrepresentations in the signature campaign for People's Initiative.

Adopted,


IMEE R. MARCOS