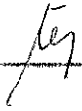


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
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First Regular Session

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SENATE
P.S. Res. 166

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Villar

RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDING TO THE VARIOUS EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS THE ADOPTION OF HONEST AND 'OUT OF THE BOX' MECHANISMS TO IMPLEMENT RELEVANT LAWS ON COMPETITIVENESS AND BUREAUCRATIC REFORMS AND TO PRACTISE MEANINGFUL POLITICAL WILL IN GOVERNANCE IN THE LIGHT OF THE PHILIPPINES' 133RD RANKING OUT OF 178 ECONOMIES IN THE WORLD BANK GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS-DOING BUSINESS SURVEY 2008

Whereas, it is the perennial goal of every government to be of utmost service to the Filipino people by delivering basic services, to assist in achieving competitiveness, to reform the bureaucracy and to make the government the most significant partner of the citizens in uplifting their lives;

Whereas, a cursory survey of the 1987 Philippine Constitution indicate the following ardent objectives of the government for a clean bureaucracy:

1. "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and improved quality of life for all" (Article II, Section 9);
2. "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption." (Article, Section 27);
3. "Public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives." (Article XI, Section 1);

Whereas, the World Bank Global Competitiveness-Doing Business Survey 2008, has just been released and the country placed 133rd out of 178 economies in terms of competitiveness;

Whereas, based on the World Bank Global Competitiveness-Doing Business Survey 2008, the following notions may be arrived at:

- The Philippines, in 2007, has failed to make itself a better place for businesses, slipping eighth notches lower, to 133rd from its 126th ranking in 2006;
- The poor ranking is despite the high-profile attempt of the government to address the very problems affecting the country's competitiveness;

- The Philippines is lagging behind other Asian markets, including Bangladesh (107th), India (120th ranking) and Indonesia (at 123rd) in competitiveness and pursuing reforms;

Whereas, a number of government agencies have been adopting really “out of the box” mechanisms for competitiveness and bureaucratic reforms, as exemplified by the following agencies and their projects:

- a. The semi-government Philippine Rice Research Institute has initiated the Farmers’ Text Center in which rice farmers with crop problems are given access to scientists and experts’ advise, comments and recommendations through SMS;
- b. The DTI-Leyte office has developed a successful efforts of streamlining the processing of business permits and licensing (BPL) in Ormoc City with the usual 17-steps BPL reduced to 5;

Whereas, the various executive departments and agencies must be bold, adopt unconventional and positively outre schemes and creative resolutions in implementing various programs geared towards competitiveness and reformed bureaucracy and possibly be inspired by the management/implementation set by the Philippine Rice Research Institute and DTI-Leyte Office: Now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To recommend to the various Executive departments the adoption of honest and ‘out of the box’ mechanisms to implement relevant laws on competitiveness and bureaucratic reforms and to practise meaningful political will in governance in the light of the Philippines’ 133rd ranking out of 178 economies in the World Bank Global Competitiveness- Doing Business Survey 2008.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR