

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

7 09 15 P.M.

SENATE
 P. S RESOLUTION NO. 172

RECEIVED BY

[Signature]

Introduced by Senator Lacson

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S OF THE SENATE TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE PURPORTED DISTRIBUTION OF CASH GIFTS BY MALACAÑAN TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN LIGHT OF THE NEW IMPEACHMENT BID AGAINST THE PRESIDENT, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF STRENGTHENING PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF OUR CRIMINAL LAWS DEALING WITH BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Whereas, Article XI, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution provides “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;”

Whereas, this provision sums up the high sense of idealism expected of each and every officer and personnel working in the government. Unfortunately, recent events have shown the utter disregard of this constitutional precept by some public officials to the detriment of our people;

Whereas, on September 26, 2007, former NEDA Chairman Romulo Neri testified under oath before a Senate investigation that he was offered P200 million by COMELEC Chairman Benjamin Abalos in exchange for his support and approval of the anomalous deal with ZTE Corp. of China for the National Broadband Network project;

Whereas, this was followed by a privilege speech of Congressman Crispin Beltran where he alleged that prior to the endorsement of the “impeach me” complaint of Atty. Pulido against the President, he was approached and, subsequently, offered P2 million by one Atty. Francis Ver, the Deputy Secretary General of KAMPI as an enticement for the Congressman’s endorsement of the said “impeach me” complaint;

Whereas, this alleged offer was likewise made by Atty. Ver to other opposition Congressmen to give the “impeach me” complaint a semblance of support from their ranks;

Whereas, subsequently, there were allegations in newspapers that members of Congress and local government officials were summoned to Malacañan for a dialogue on matters of governance after which, they allegedly received cash gifts ranging from P200,000 to P500,000 from unnamed Palace functionaries;

Whereas, when these alleged palace dole-outs were leaked to and were reported in the media, the usual Palace allies went into their usual denial mode explaining to high heavens that no such thing occurred;

Whereas, last October 13, Father Eddie Panlilio, Governor of the Province of Pampanga and one of the local government officials that attended said gathering belied their statements and confirmed the veracity of the reports as he told the media that he himself received P500,000.00 from a staff officer of Malacañan allegedly to be used in the incoming barangay and SK election;


Whereas, there is a need to determine the source of said cash gifts or bribes and the real purpose for their distribution in order to ascertain the propriety and legality of the said questionable disbursements of public funds particularly at a time when the President is facing another challenge to her manner of governance;

Whereas, an inquiry into this kind of disbursements of public funds is necessary to ensure that public funds are spent only for public purposes and not to be given as dole-outs to some government officials in exchange for their unwavering support of the present administration;

Whereas, considering the nature of these funds, it is high time for Congress, upon whom the power of the purse is reposed, to exercise its power to ensure that public funds are disbursed only for public purpose and not for anything else. NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct as it hereby directs the proper Committee/s of the Senate, to investigate in aid of legislation, on the alleged distribution of cash gifts by staff officials of the Office of the President to members of Congress and local government officials, with the end in view of determining the propriety of said disbursements in light of the pending "impeach me" complaint in the House of Representatives and more importantly to provide remedial legislations that will further strengthen the provisions of the Revised Penal Code on bribery and corruption of public officials as well as the pertinent provisions of RA No. 3019, otherwise known as the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and RA No. 6713, otherwise known as the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.

Adopted;


PANFILO M. LACSON
Senator