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

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P. S. Res. No. 318

SENATE

Introduced by Senator JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE ALLEGED CORRUPT PRACTICES AND IRREGULARITIES BY SEVERAL OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES IN THE HOUSING AND LAND USE **REGULATORY BOARD IN REGION XI**

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 648 issued in 1981 creating the Human Settlements Regulatory Commission and Executive Order No. 90 issued in 1986 renaming the Human Settlements Regulatory Commission into Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB);

WHEREAS, HLURB is the sole regulatory body for housing and development and is charged with encouraging greater private sector participation in low-cost housing through liberalization of development standards, simplification of regulations and decentralization of approvals for permits and licenses:

WHEREAS, the Regional Offices of the HLURB have been tasked to approve applications and issue permits and licenses in line with its decentralization programs;

WHEREAS, there have been allegations that the Regional Officer of HLURB-Region XI, Mr. ROY T. LOPEZ has been involved in graft and corrupt practices, abuse of power, favoritism, immorality, harassment and incompetence by the real estate developers, homeowners' associations and several HLURB staff in Region XI;

WHEREAS, several real estate developers, homeowners' associations officials and staff in HLURB-Region XI in their letter-petition to the Senate Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Resettlement alleged that Mr. Lopez has been harassing real estate developers who refuse to heed his "special requests" by indiscriminately issuing notices of violations and cease and desist orders as well as imposing unwarranted fines and penalties in grave abuse of power and authority;

WHEREAS, in their letter-petition, these real estate developers have referred that the "special requests" being customarily asked by Mr. Lopez are monetary favors from them;

WHEREAS, these complaints have been forwarded to the office of the Chairman of HLURB but until now no concrete steps were undertaken to investigate or take appropriate action on the alleged corrupt practices and irregularities in HLURB-Region XI;

WHEREAS, several cases have also been filed before the Ombudsman against Mr. Lopez and some of his subordinates in the HLURB-Region XI and despite the filing of these cases such alleged corrupt practices and irregularities continue;

WHEREAS, it is disheartening to know that our government officials have become so insensitive and callous to the plight of the people they are supposed to serve;

WHEREAS, the appropriate Senate Committee should look into the bottom of this issue in the exercise of its oversight functions and if necessary, formulate appropriate legislative measure;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the appropriate Committee of the Senate of the Philippines conduct an investigation in aid of legislation on the alleged corrupt practices and irregularities by several officials and employees in the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board in Region XI.

Adopted,

JUAN-MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI