

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

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 349

RECEIVED BY: JA

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO  
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED  
INEFFICIENCY AND IRREGULARITIES AT THE GOVERNMENT  
SERVICE AND INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS)

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 11, Section 1 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, according to an article published in the *The Philippine Daily Inquirer* in its 27 February 2008 issue, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus hit back at the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) for putting the blame on the education department for the discrepancies in the updated service records and contribution reports of public school teachers;

WHEREAS, according to Lapus, these problems cannot be solved with GSIS public relations campaigns, but with the real overhaul of GSIS members' servicing system and that since our teachers are the biggest contributors to GSIS it is only proper that they be given special attention by GSIS;

WHEREAS, the Manila Public School Teachers Association (MPSTA) also blamed the GSIS for the delay in their receipt of benefits because of the state-run pension fund's failure to resolve discrepancies in their contribution reports;

WHEREAS, the MPSTA, which represents about 11,500 teachers, also claimed that some of the grievances against GSIS had to do with inefficiency in updating members' records, non-posting or delayed posting of premium remittances causing underpayments or non-payment of dividends, non-deduction of loan remittances, the implementation of so-called Claims and Loans Interdependence Policy (CLIP), and the issuance of an e-Card Plus with no funds available";

WHEREAS, according to MPSTA President Medardo Mercado, thousands of teachers and government employees continue to lodge their complaints regarding the inefficiency of the system as well as the irregularities committed by some GSIS officials which have worsened under GSIS President Winston Garcia";

WHEREAS, the MPSTA is reportedly planning to spearhead a nationwide move among public school teachers to ask Congress for relief from the incompetence of the GSIS and the setting up of an independent insurance system that would hopefully be more responsive to their needs;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are about 470,000 public school teachers in the country and on the average, their monthly salary comes up to P9,900; the GSIS collects 12 percent of this amount, which is about P1,100, from each teacher for a total amount of P517,000,000 monthly or P6.2 billion annually;

WHEREAS, public school teachers make up 40 percent of GSIS membership and they certainly have a right to be heard and attended to when their complaints are not addressed satisfactorily;

WHEREAS, due to the severity of the allegations made against the GSIS from the very people that sustain it, it is time for Congress to evaluate the GSIS and determine whether there is indeed a need to overhaul the organization, or abolish it entirely and set up a new one that is more relevant to the needs of its constituents;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged inefficiency and irregularities at the Government Service Insurance System.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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