

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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First Regular Session)

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 135

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS & PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS & INVESTIGATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED DIVERSION OF A DONATION OF FORTY-NINE METRIC TONS OF RICE WORTH PHP 1.4 MILLION INTENDED FOR TYPHOON VICTIMS IN 2008, PERPETRATED BY FORMER PHILIPPINE GAMING CORP. (PAGCOR) CHAIR EFRAIM GENUINO TO SUPPORT THE CANDIDACIES OF HIS SONS ANTHONY AND ERWIN GENUINO IN THE MAY 2010 ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 27: "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption";

WHEREAS, according to various news reports last 4 August 2010, some 49 metric tons of rice worth over Php 1.4 million, which were intended for typhoon victims in 2008, were diverted to support the candidacies of Anthony and Erwin Genuino, sons of former Philippine Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) chair Efraim Genuino;

WHEREAS, the report originated from the gaming firm itself, and said that the rice was part of a 300-metric ton shipment from Thailand and was donated to Pagcor by Aruze Corp., a Japanese gaming firm;

WHEREAS, it was reported that Pagcor documents described the commodity as "Thailand white rice, long grain, 100 percent broken" and that the agency paid almost P1.7 million for the cost of shipment, brokerage, storage, and freight services;

WHEREAS, the rice shipment was allegedly taken immediately to the Pagcor warehouse in Imus, Cavite, when it arrived from Thailand on 24 July 2008,

WHEREAS, it was reported 6,500 bags of rice were donated to the Department of Social Welfare and Development via verbal instructions from former chair Genuino to then corporate communications chief Dodie King, while the rest were kept in the Pagcor warehouse and were later transferred to the rice depot owned by the National Food Authority, also in Cavite;

WHEREAS, on Dec. 23, 2009, it was said that King again verbally instructed Pagcor employees to bring the rice to a private rice mill in Biñan, Laguna which offered to replace the already rotting rice with "Angelica" rice;

WHEREAS, in what was said to be like a barter agreement wherein Pagcor exchanged the donated rice for the good quality rice; the "Angelica" rice were subsequently repacked into smaller 10-kilogram bags with the names and faces of Genuino's sons before they were supposedly distributed during the siblings' respective campaigns;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that Pagcor employees recently discovered similar rice bags from their head office in Manila;

WHEREAS, newly installed Pagcor officials expect to uncover more anomalies, as there are allegedly more outside sources of information of these illegal acts;

WHEREAS, former Pagcor chair Genuino claimed that the rice shipment was donated to him by Aruze Corp. through the help of his "kumpare" who, he said, was a senior official of the Japanese company;

WHEREAS, the statement from the former Pagcor chair contradicts a press release on Pagcor's website stating that the rice shipment was donated by the Japanese company to Pagcor, complete with a picture of former chair Genuino and then Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro; the same article also stated that the rice was intended for distribution to families affected by typhoons.

WHEREAS, it was reported that the Japanese gaming firm was awarded by the Pagcor with a contract to build a multimillion peso hotel-resort complex inside the proposed 12-hectare Pagcor Entertainment City on Manila Bay;

WHEREAS, Pagcor officials said that if the former Pagcor chair really owned the shipment, then Genuino must be guilty of tax evasion as he did not pay for the importation of rice;

WHEREAS, the illegal activities of the former Pagcor chair makes him liable to various offenses under different laws such as the Election Code and the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, among others;

WHEREAS, the gross violation of these laws from the former public official who, in an effort to hold on to political power, used government resources that were meant for the poor and the needy should be investigated for his utter desecration of the spirit of fair and clean elections, and of whatever dignity left of the government position he once held;

WHEREAS, Dodie King and the sons of Genuino should also be investigated for their participation in this illegal act;

WHEREAS, Anthony Genuino who won as mayor of Los Baños, Laguna through his father's illegal activities, should also be disqualified from his government post and charged accordingly with the Ombudsman;

WHEREAS, the Senate should investigate this anomaly not only for perpetrators be brought to justice, but also to formulate legislation and amend relevant laws to prevent such unscrupulous acts from recurring;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the *Philippine Senate*, to direct the Senate Committee on Government Corporations & Public Enterprises and the Senate Committee on Accountability of Public Officers & Investigations to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the alleged diversion of a donation of forty-nine metric tons of rice worth Php 1.4 million intended for typhoon victims in 2008 perpetrated by former Philippine Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) chair Efraim Genuino to support the candidacies of his sons Anthony and Erwin Genuino in the May 2010 elections.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
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