

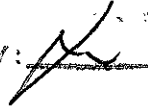
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 28 4:57

SENATE

S. B. No. 2185

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator TEOFISTO "TG" GUINGONA III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

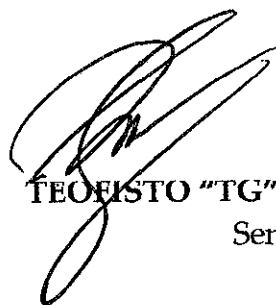
The people have the right to be informed on matters of public concern. It is one of the basic rights afforded and guaranteed by no less than the Philippine Constitution. Pursuant to this and subject to reasonable conditions prescribed by law, the State should therefore always endeavor to adopt and implement a policy of full disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest especially those matters that go into the very fiber of government operations and have the most impact on the lives of every citizen – matters like those pertaining to the appropriation of the national budget and the expenditure of public funds.

Verily, where and as to what purpose the members of the Legislative Department plan to spend public funds are matters of public concern. It is but proper that the public be afforded the opportunity to be informed of and to take part in the entire budget process.

The practice therefore of the Legislative Department of holding a closed-door bicameral meeting when discussing the national budget not only contravenes this nation's basic tenets of public accountability and transparency but is also contrary to logic. There is no rhyme or reason why the bicameral meeting must be conducted behind closed doors. The whole process of budget appropriation and allocation is for naught if in the end, it is but a handful of people who decide whose budget will be cut and whose budget will be augmented,

It is about time that the practice of holding a closed-door bicameral meeting on the national budget be stopped and make it mandatory for these sessions or meetings to be conducted in an open and transparent manner and therefore subject to public scrutiny.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate enactment of this measure is earnestly sought.



TEOFISTO "TG" GUINGONA III
Senator

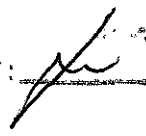
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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SECRET
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10 JUL 28 09:57

SENATE

S.B. No. 2185

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator TEOFISTO "TG" GUINGONA III

AN ACT
MANDATING THAT THE BICAMERAL MEETING ON THE NATIONAL
BUDGET BE CONDUCTED IN AN OPEN AND TRANSPARENT MANNER, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Transparent Budget
2 Bicameral Meeting Act of 2010”.

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 formulate and implement a national budget that is within the framework of
5 accountability, transparency, stability, performance and participation. The State shall
6 ensure the right of the people to be informed where and how their money will be spent,
7 with the end goal on ensuring the citizenry's and the nation's progress and
8 development.

9 **SEC. 3. Conduct of the Bicameral Meeting on Budget.** – The Committee on
10 Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the
11 Senate of the Philippines shall comply with the following rules in the conduct of the
12 bicameral meetings on the national budget:

13 (1) The sessions and meetings shall be open to the public. The schedule and
14 venue for each session or meeting shall be published on the websites of

1 both houses of Congress, in two (2) top major newspapers and two (2)
2 tabloids, in terms of readership.

3 (2) The sessions and meetings shall be recorded and the official minutes of
4 the deliberations shall be made immediately available to the public. The
5 record of the minutes of the deliberations shall immediately be posted on
6 the website of both houses of Congress and published in two (2) top major
7 newspapers and two (2) tabloids, in terms of readership.

8 (3) Private citizens, representatives of civil society organizations, and other
9 interested groups may be invited to be present in and be allowed to
10 observe the meetings and sessions of the bicameral conference committee.

11 (4) The media shall be invited to the meetings and sessions of the bicameral
12 conference committee.

13 **SEC. 4. Amendments to the Proposed Budget.** – In cases where amendments to
14 the proposed budget are introduced or requested by a member of either Senate or
15 House of Representatives, such amendments shall be referenced via a footnote that
16 indicates the author of the proposed amendments, the date on which the amendments
17 were proposed, and a brief explanation for the request or proposal.

18 **SEC. 5. Separability.** – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is
19 held unconstitutional or invalid, no other section or provision shall be affected.

20 **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
21 regulations, issuances or any part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
22 are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

23 **SEC. 7. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
24 in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,