


SENATE

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P. S. Res. No. 38

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON GOVERNMENTAL PROCEDURES ON SECURING DIFFERENT TYPES OF PERMITS AND LICENSES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF STREAMLINING BUREAUCRATIC PROCESSES, LESSEN IF NOT TOTALLY ELIMINATE RED TAPE AND ULTIMATELY DEVELOP A "FEES BOOK" OR A UNIVERSAL GUIDE TO ALL THESE TRANSACTIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL THOSE WHO TRANSACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, Section 9 of Article II of the Constitution says, "the State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

WHEREAS, it is mandatory for public offices to provide prompt and adequate services to the public as provided by various laws of ethical standards that should be observed by government officials and employees;

WHEREAS, the government bureaucracy, particularly agencies that are responsible for the grant of various permits and licenses to the public, is saddled with complaints of inefficiency, corruption and red tape;

WHEREAS, as proof of this inefficiency, both perceived and actual, the Philippines languished in the bottom third of the 2012 World Competitiveness Rankings and dubbed as the least competitive country in the Asia Pacific, sliding to the 43rd spot out of 59 economies evaluated in the World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY) in terms of managing economic and human resources to increase prosperity¹;

WHEREAS, in the 2012–2013 Global Competitiveness Report, the Philippines placed 108th out of the 144 countries evaluated in terms of burden of governmental procedures and regulations, indicating that it is practically arduous for businesses in the Philippines to comply with governmental administrative requirements²;

WHEREAS, the World Bank study entitled *Doing Business 2013* likewise found it difficult to do business in the Philippines when the country ranked 161st out of the 185 economies evaluated for ease on starting a business for a small or medium-size company³;

WHEREAS, the same study said that in the Philippines, 16 different procedures are required for starting up and formally operating a business, which can be completed at an average of 36 days and would cost about 18.1% of income per capita;

¹ Source: <http://www.imd.org/uupload/imd.website/wcc/scoreboard.pdf>, accessed on June 3, 2013

² Source: http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GCR_Report_2011-12.pdf, accessed on June 3, 2013

³ Source: <http://www.doingbusiness.org/~media/GIAWB/Doing%20Business/Documents/Annual-Reports/English/DB13-full-report.pdf>, accessed on June 3, 2013

WHEREAS, one need not look further in recognizing that governmental procedures are a burden to the public as people suffer hours in long lines just to secure a driver's license, a police or NBI clearance, a taxpayer's identification or a social security number, and a certified true copy of a birth certificate, among others;

WHEREAS, these burdensome government procedures continue to provide relevance to the proverbial "fixer" and influence peddler who take advantage of these bureaucratic complications to corrupt public officials and make these transactions even more expensive to the people;

WHEREAS, in line with President Benigno Aquino III's inaugural statement "Kayo ang Boss ko," referring to the duty of those in government to serve the people, there is a need to streamline governmental processes in order to be more responsive to the needs of the public and make them work for their welfare;

WHEREAS, it is the duty of Congress to enact laws that will curb, if not totally eliminate, bureaucratic red tape and simplify government procedures in order to make the country more competitive;

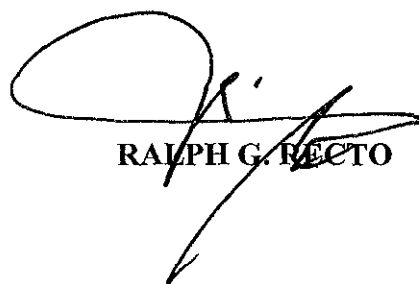
WHEREAS, corollary to this duty is Congress's responsibility to promote the welfare of the people by easing the burdens of transacting with the government;

WHEREAS, although there is a wide array of fees that are collected in the course of these transactions that include a long list of procedures that needs to be completed, the government has not come up with a universal guide to these transactions, to ease the burden of the people who, in order to avoid inconvenience, in most cases, fall prey to fixers and influence peddlers;

WHEREAS, a "Fees Book" can serve as the people's guide to doing business with the government, empowering them with the right and accurate information as well as arming them with knowledge of their rights, duties and responsibilities in every facet of governmental operations;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Committee on Public Services to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into governmental procedures on securing different types of permits and licenses with the end in view of streamlining bureaucratic processes, lessen if not totally eliminate red tape and ultimately develop a "Fees Book" or a universal guide to all these transactions for the benefit of all those who transact with the government.

Adopted,


RALPH G. RECTO