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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 124

RECORDED BY: *ja*

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS (BLUE RIBBON), WAYS AND MEANS, AND FINANCE TO LOOK INTO, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE PURPORTED "PADRINO SYSTEM" PREVAILING IN THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS ALLEGEDLY PERPETRATED BY SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF INSTITUTING LEGISLATIVE REFORMS TO ADDRESS THE SAME

WHEREAS, the Constitution categorically proscribes any form of intervention from members of Congress in any matter before any office of government for his or her pecuniary benefit or where he or she may be called upon to act on account of his or her office.¹

WHEREAS, such constitutional prohibition is likewise read and interpreted in relation to avoidance of any possible conflict of interest and absolutely prohibited offices² under the same fundamental document, thus putting emphasis on the kind of public accountability that is constitutionally demanded of from senators and representatives of the Republic.

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 3019, or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, defines persuading, inducing or influencing any another public officer as one of the corrupt practices punishable under the law.³

WHEREAS, according to reports, and as admitted by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) Deputy Commissioner for Intelligence, Danilo Lim, "powerful forces" are interfering in the operations of BOC, and such "powerful forces," as stated in the same reports by BOC Deputy Commissioner for Administration, include senators and congressmen and relatives of some high officials; the alleged interference ranges from employment to promotion in the BOC.⁴

¹Section 14, Article VI, Constitution.

²Sections 12 and 13, *Ibid.*

³Section 3, par. a, RA NO. 3019.

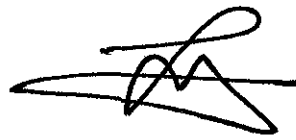
⁴ Customs Exec Won't Name Powerful Forces, Evelyn Macairan, The Philippine Star, 26 July 2013 (posted and updated).

WHEREAS, the BOC is suffering in its collection performance as it already admitted that it would fall short of its revenue target of Php340 billion this 2013.

WHEREAS, the BOC, as the second biggest revenue earner in government, deserves a full and thorough legislative deliberation not only to institute reforms therein but also to rid itself of corruption, perceived or otherwise, especially from members of Congress.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Senate Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations (Blue Ribbon), Ways and Means, and Finance to look into, in aid of legislation, the purported "padrino system" prevailing in the Bureau of Customs allegedly perpetrated by some members of Congress with the end in view of instituting legislative reforms to address the same.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francis G. Escudero', with a stylized flourish at the end.

FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO