

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
S. Ct. Res. No. 4

RE

BY:

Introduced by Senator Alan Peter "Compañero" S. Cayetano

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION HEEDING THE CLAMOR OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE TO ABOLISH THE PORK BARREL SYSTEM, ALSO KNOWN AS THE PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (PDAF), AND ANY VARIATION THEREOF, THAT IS, THE PRACTICE OF GIVING DISCRETIONARY POWERS TO LEGISLATORS OVER LUMP SUM APPROPRIATIONS, WHICH HAS LED TO MANY ABUSES AND INSTANCES OF CORRUPTION, ADOPTING LINE-ITEM BUDGETING IN THE 2014 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, AND ENSURING THE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND FUNDING NATIONWIDE

WHEREAS, the Philippine Constitution grants the power of appropriating funds and passing the national budget into law to the Philippine Congress, commonly described as the "power of the purse,";

WHEREAS, Congress annually appropriates funds through a national budget officially called the General Appropriations Act (GAA);

WHEREAS, the funding for priority development programs and projects identified by the legislators' discretion are included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) as a lump sum appropriation under the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), or more commonly known as the pork barrel system;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Constitution is founded on the principle of checks and balances among the three branches of government, the executive, legislative, and judicial, wherein each branch checks and balances out the others to prevent any abuse and offense against the people and the state;

WHEREAS, Congress, composed of the people's elected representatives is specifically empowered to exercise oversight over the other branches of government to ensure that the public trust in public institutions is preserved and protected;

WHEREAS, this power and mandate of oversight is greatly compromised when legislators themselves are accused of grave acts of abuse and misuse of public funds;

WHEREAS, recent allegations of malversation and misuse of P10 billion in Priority Development Assistance Funds (PDAF) involving several legislators in the past 10 years has resulted in deep anger and massive mistrust by the people against individual legislators as well as the institutions they represent;

WHEREAS, the Special Audit Report of the Commission on Audit (COA) covering the years 2007-2009 released on August 16, 2013 showed that at least P6.156 billion of PDAF from 12 senators and 180 representatives were released to 82 questionable Non-government Organizations (NGOs), which has further fanned the discontent, anger and indignation of the Filipino people;

WHEREAS, the continued presence of the PDAF in the National Budget is viewed by the public as an unwillingness of the legislature to address the many abuses and instances of corruption in the system and an unwillingness to heed the voice of the Filipino people for dramatic change;

WHEREAS, the continuous practice of discretionary lump sum appropriations for PDAF projects will always be a symbol and source of corruption for legislators;

WHEREAS, to once more merit the trust of the Filipino people, there is an urgent need for drastic reform;

WHEREAS, to enable Congress to fully pursue its primary function, which is to legislate laws that will benefit the majority of Filipinos especially the poor and marginalized, the pork barrel system must be abolished;

WHEREAS, in order for legislators to assure their constituents of beneficial and developmental projects and programs, a non-discretionary and specific line item appropriation system through the General Appropriations Act (GAA), that will be equitably distributed across the various regions, provinces, legislative districts, cities and municipalities nationwide be developed and implemented henceforth, beginning with the 2014 National Budget;

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that in heeding the clamor of the Filipino people to abolish the pork barrel system, also known as Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), and any variation thereof, that is the practice of giving discretionary powers to legislators over lump sum appropriations that has led to many abuses and instances of corruption, adopting line-item budgeting in the 2014 general appropriations act, and ensuring the equitable distribution of development assistance and funding nationwide.

Adopted,



ALAN PETER COMPAÑERO S. CAYETANO
Majority Leader