

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



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**SENATE**

RECEIVED BY: JWV

P. S. Res. No. 193

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Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

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**RESOLUTION**

**EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO ABOLISH THE PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND AND ITS ALLIED CONGRESSIONAL INITIATIVE ALLOCATION COLLECTIVELY KNOWN AS "PORK BARREL"**

*WHEREAS*, the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) and allied congressional initiative allocations collectively known as "pork barrel," whose precursor is the Countrywide Development Fund (CDF) established in 1990, is supposed to fund the needs of every Filipino on a priority basis as identified and deemed as such by the national government.

*WHEREAS*, the use of the pork barrel has mutated into a multi-billion racket or scam allegedly perpetrated by syndicates in both the public and private sectors - which has pillaged the peoples' money through unlawful means, ranging from forgery, misrepresentation, falsification, and perhaps, to any and all other malicious schemes possible.

*WHEREAS*, the Commission on Audit, the constitutional auditing body of the government, has confirmed the gravity and extent of the pork barrel's abuse by some unscrupulous individuals with the existence of dubious Non-Government Organizations who act as beneficiaries of funds.<sup>1</sup>

*WHEREAS*, the call for the pork barrel's abolition<sup>2</sup> can no longer be ignored as it debilitates integrity, honesty, accountability and transparency in governance, especially in both Houses of Congress.

*WHEREAS*, moreover, the pork barrel, despite its statutory laudable purpose, has been misconceived as a form of "horse-trading" and a major source of corruption in government, and such misconception is apparently starting to become real in the light of the PDAF multi-billion scam, especially in the eyes of the sovereign Filipino people.

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<sup>1</sup> *Philippine Daily Inquire (PDI)*, 18 August 2013. Notably, the PDAF web of scam does not only involve the JLN group.

<sup>2</sup> Various groups include the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, members of the academe and the Makabayan Coalition. The abolition of the pork barrel is estimated to be at Php27 billion of the Php2.268 trillion national budget.

*WHEREAS*, it may become necessary as well to draw the line further between public accountability and patronage politics by being truthful to the constitutional allocation of powers and prerogatives; Congress should limit itself to the enactment of the national budget and the Executive to its implementation.<sup>3</sup>

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED*, that the Senate express its sense to abolish the pork barrel.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'S' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

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<sup>3</sup>*Philconsa v. Hon. Enriquez, et. al.* (GR No. 113105, 19 August 1994) declares as unconstitutional the Countrywide Development Fund on the ground that there is no clash of powers between the Legislative and Executive on the CDF provisions of the General Appropriations Act of 1994 since the former merely recommends and the latter implements the projects.