S E N A T E
P. S. Res. No. 320

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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION
CALLING ON THE SENATE TO IMMEDIATELY CONSTITUTE AND CONVENE THE
JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON THE AUTOMATED
ELECTION SYSTEM AND FOR THE SAID COMMITTEE TO REQUIRE FROM THE
ADVISORY COUNCIL THE IMMEDIATE SUBMISSION OF ITS REPORT ON THE
2013 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9369 mandates the creation of a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Automated Election System (AES);

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9369 further mandates that the Commission on Elections Advisory Council shall submit to the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee a written report evaluating the use of the AES within six (6) months from the date of election;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9369 vests upon the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee the power to conduct a comprehensive assessment and evaluation of the performance of the different AES technologies implemented during the past elections and make the necessary recommendations to Congress;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9369 provides that the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee shall conduct a mandatory review of the said Act every twelve (12) months from date of the last regular national or local elections;

WHEREAS, during the May 13, 2013 national and local elections, incidents occurred that led the public to question the accuracy and reliability of the automated election system[1]. These include defective Precinct Count Optical Scan (PCOS) machines, lack of memory cards, and the 60-30-10 voting pattern that has been observed by Dr. Felix Muga[2];

WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure the integrity of succeeding elections and the convenient excuse of "minor glitches" should not be considered as an acceptable explanation to justify what may be perceived as election irregularities.

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[1] "Defective PCOS, vote-buying mar 2nd automated polls," Sun Star, May 13, 2013, http://www.sunstar.com.ph/breaking-news/2013/05/13/defective-pcos-vote-buying-mar-2nd-automated-polls-282152.

[2] "Senator-elect wants probe on '60-30-10' poll results pattern," Sun Star, May 23, 2013, http://www.sunstar.com.ph/breaking-news/2013/05/23/senator-elect-wants-probe-60-30-10-poll-results-pattern-283768.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved to call on the Senate to immediately constitute and convene the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the AES for the May 13, 2013 National and Local Elections to conduct a comprehensive review of all the issues relevant to the automated elections, in order that the same may be adequately addressed by the Commission on Elections for succeeding elections, to ensure the integrity of the electoral process, so that the will of the Filipino people, expressed through their sacred right of suffrage, may not be thwarted.

Adopted,

MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator