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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 340

11/13/2013

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROPOSAL TO MAKE DRUG TESTING MANDATORY FOR BARANGAY ELECTION CANDIDATES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 27 states, "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service";

WHEREAS, Article 11, Section 1 of the same provides, "Public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must, at all times, be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency; act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives";

WHEREAS, *The Philippine Daily Inquirer* reported in its 21 October 2013 issue that two Quezon City councilors have proposed a measure that will make drug testing mandatory for barangay election candidates;

WHEREAS, the report claimed that according to the draft resolution of two city councilors, requiring candidates for barangay posts to undergo drug testing will help ensure the public of the quality of candidates they are electing and that only those who can serve with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty and efficiency will be elected to hold public office;

WHEREAS, the proposed measure could allegedly stop drug pushers and drug dealers from ruining the seat of the local government, and that the conduct of drug testing will eliminate all doubts about barangay officials being involved in illegal acts;

WHEREAS, since the Constitution does not proscribe the creation of additional requirements for barangay candidates, the mechanism provided in the proposed resolution by Quezon City could be applied through a subsequent legislation, on a national scale;

WHEREAS, in view of the powers and responsibilities of barangay officials, it would be prudent to require them to undergo drug testing to ensure that those leading the most basic unit of government are free from the detrimental influence of drugs, and are thus fully competent to fulfill their duties;

WHEREAS, legislation requiring drug testing for barangay candidates would ensure the credibility and efficiency of the barangay as a fundamental political unit;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the proposal to make drug testing mandatory for barangay election candidates.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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