

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



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. **341**

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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 MASSIVE VOTE-BUYING THAT REPORTEDLY TOOK
PLACE DURING THE 2013 BARANGAY ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 27 states, "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption";

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*, in its 29 October 2013 issue, reported that massive vote-buying was reported in Bicol, Southern Tagalog, Central Luzon, northern Luzon, Eastern Visayas, Central Visayas and Western Visayas, as well as in Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, it was reported that vote-buying was the norm in electoral contests in all 315 barangays in Catanduanes province, with candidates giving away anything from a sachet of 3-in-1 coffee and noodles to P10 worth of "pan de sal" and outright cash ranging from as low as P20 per voter to as much as P1,000 per voter;

WHEREAS, some political candidates even reportedly gave away bottles of wine with their names and pictures on the labels, while others even had to resort to borrowing from loan sharks in order to finance their vote-buying schemes;

WHEREAS, it appears that with the massive vote-buying occurring in several areas in the country, such has become the norm, giving rise to the presumption that the public and even the candidates place a low regard on the integrity of the barangay elections;

WHEREAS, although comprising the smallest local government unit of elected officials, members of the sangguniang barangay should be required to exhibit the same ethical standards and perceived with the same expectations as those belonging to other local government units;

WHEREAS, more effective and stricter measures should therefore be implemented in order to curb the practice of massive vote-buying during the barangay elections;

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 massive vote-buying that reportedly took place during the 2013 barangay elections.

Adopted,

/mamt

miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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