

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'14 MAR -4 AM 11:47

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 554

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED CLERICAL ERRORS IN THE PREPARATION AND ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL ALLOTMENT AND RELEASE ORDERS (SAROs) AT THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT

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, the same, Article 2, Section 28 provides, "Subject to reasonable conditions prescribed by law, the State adopts and implements a policy of full public disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest";

WHEREAS, on 21 August 2013, the *Inquirer* reported that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) said that it made a clerical error in listing then Compostela Valley Rep. Manuel "Way Kurat" Zamora as having received P3 billion in pork barrel funds in 2007;

WHEREAS, Secretary Florencio Abad Jr. allegedly said that the DBM made a mistake in including Zamora's allocation of P500,000 from his Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) in the same statement of allotment release order (SARO) it issued for the P3-billion project of the Department of Public Works and Highways;

WHEREAS, the report was made in reference to SARO No. A-07-095396 in which the allotted amount of some P3 billion was intended for road maintenance project while that of Representative Zamora's allocation was for a multipurpose building for Davao Hospital in Tagum City;

WHEREAS, the said clerical error in official documents was made as the basis for a "Commission on Audit (COA) special report on the pork barrel funds released from 2007 to 2009 which showed that Zamora exceeded his annual P70-million pork allocation by P3 billion;

WHEREAS, on 20 February 2014, the *Manila Bulletin* quoted Partylist Representative Terry Ridon, who described as "ridiculous" the claim of the Department of Budget and Management that the reported P6.5 billion augmentation of the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) for some legislators under the Disbursement Acceleration Program in 2011 was just a clerical error;

WHEREAS, such clerical errors in the preparation and processing of public documents involve some P6.5 billion pesos in public funds, and pass through different signatories and lots of staff works;

WHEREAS, Rep. Ridon has reportedly challenged the DBM to release to the public all documents pertinent to DAP, including memos for the President saying that the public deserves a better explanation since billions of pesos cannot just be brushed aside as a minor clerical error;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, on the alleged clerical errors in the preparation and issuance of Special Allotment and Release Orders (SAROs) at the Department of Budget and Management.

Adopted,

amb *Miriam Defensor Santiago*
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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