



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

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SENATE
P.S.R. No. **575**

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE TO IMMEDIATELY SUMMON AS RESOURCE PERSONS FOR THE ONGOING PROBE INTO THE PORK BARREL SCAM, RHODORA MENDOZA AND VICTOR ROMAN CACAL, FORMER OFFICIALS OF THE NATIONAL AGRI-BUSINESS CORPORATION

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, on 17 March 2014, reported the headline news that four senators and 79 members of the House of Representatives coursed a total of P1.7 billion of their Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) allocations to questionable nongovernment organizations (NGOs) through the government-owned and -controlled National Agri-business Corporation (Nabcor);

WHEREAS, Nabcor, which is under the Department of Agriculture (DA), was allegedly the favored implementing agency of Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Jinggoy Estrada, and Ramon Revilla Jr.;

WHEREAS, the *Inquirer* news report stated that Sen. Edgardo Angara also allegedly used Nabcor as his implementing agency for P20 million of his PDAF allocation and endorsed the NGO Kagandahan ng Kapaligiran Foundation Inc. (KKFI) to carry out a project intended to buy seedlings and farm implements;

WHEREAS, Enrile, Estrada, and Revilla are currently under investigation by the Office of the Ombudsman in connection with the alleged P10-billion pork barrel scam involving detained businesswoman Janet Lim-Napoles; the funds the three senators reportedly channelled to Nabcor are among those being investigated by the Ombudsman; Angara, however, is not among those under investigation by the Ombudsman;

WHEREAS, the documents on the alleged scam involving Nabcor were reportedly submitted by former Nabcor officials Rhodora Mendoza and Victor Roman Cacal to the Ombudsman, a summary of which was made available to the *Inquirer*; Mendoza used to be the vice president for finance of Nabcor, while Cacal was previously head of general services;

WHEREAS, Mendoza and Cacal are among the 38 people, including Enrile, Estrada, and Revilla, charged before the Ombudsman for plunder, malversation, bribery, and graft and corrupt practices by conspiracy; Mendoza previously testified at a Blue Ribbon committee hearing in September 2013, that the three senators allegedly funnelled their pork barrel funds to anomalous NGOs through Nabcor;

WHEREAS, Mendoza and Cacal have applied to become state witnesses, along with Dennis Cunanan, director general of the state-owned Technology Resource Center, and alleged Napoles bagman Ruby Tuason;

WHEREAS, Mendoza and Cacal reportedly said in media interviews that bogus organizations were personally endorsed by legislators to either then Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap or Nabcor president Alan Javellana;

WHEREAS, Mendoza alleged that Nabcor became an implementing agency for PDAF projects beginning in 2007; Cacal and Mendoza allegedly witnessed former Agriculture Secretary Yap, now a Bohol representative, exerting pressure on Javellana on various occasions to expedite the release of checks to questionable NGOs despite inadequate documentary requirements;

WHEREAS, Cacal alleged in his sworn statement and interviews with the *Inquirer* that Javellana would threaten to fire him if he did not immediately process the release of the funds despite lacking the required documentation;


WHEREAS, Mendoza said she was sacked in 2011 because “she knew too much”; on the other hand, Cacal resigned in January 2014 after he was allegedly ordered by Javellana to answer allegations in the plunder case; he feared he “would be made the scapegoat”;

WHEREAS, Mendoza and Cacal reportedly realized the seriousness of the Nabcor operations after whistle-blowers, led by former Napoles employee Benhur Luy, revealed the shenanigans that led to a complaint filed by the National Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice in the Office of the Ombudsman;

WHEREAS, Mendoza and Cacal should appear before the Blue Ribbon committee’s ongoing hearing on the pork barrel scam, to testify and submit documents on the criminal involvement of the lawmakers implicated in the scam; they can also testify on how the loopholes in the disbursement of government funds are exploited in order for public officials to plunder public funds;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Blue Ribbon committee to immediately summon as resource persons to the ongoing probe into the pork barrel scam, Rhodora Mendoza and Victor Roman Cacal, former officials of the National Agri-Business Corporation.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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