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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1079

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED INVOLVEMENT OF POLICEMEN IN THE CASE
OF MISSING CONFISCATED LUMBER IN OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

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

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides: "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, manilastandardtoday.com, in an article posted on 13 December 2014, reported that confiscated lumber in Barangay Caguray, Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro, have been forcibly taken from the barangay hall;

WHEREAS, according to Carugay Barangay Chairman Rudyrex Egnila, a group of policemen led by Chief Insp. Danilo Driz hauled 88 pieces of illegally cut logs recovered by barangay tanods from the banks of the Carugay River in October;

WHEREAS, Driz allegedly ordered the tanods to load the wood on a truck and refused to sign the barangay logbook;

WHEREAS, Egnila claimed that upon checking, the confiscated lumber, which are worth hundreds of thousands of pesos, are not with the police headquarters nor the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);

WHEREAS, the village chief further claimed that the standard operating procedure is that all seized lumber shall be kept at the DENR's provincial office;

WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, must implement safeguards against abuse of power by officers of the PNP and other law enforcement agencies;

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 reported involvement of policemen in the case of missing illegally cut lumber in Occidental Mindoro.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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