

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

Office of the Secretary

15 JAN 12 P4:13

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1101

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT COMMISSION ON AUDIT REPORT THAT THE CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT IN 2013 WAS RIDDLED WITH INELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES, DOUBLE PAYMENTS, AND UNPAID GRANTS

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 also states in Article 2, Section 28: "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 25 December 2014, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* reported that state auditors have discovered ineligible beneficiaries, double payments, and unpaid grants in the conditional cash transfer program (CCT) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in 2013;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Audit (COA) claimed that grants amounting to ₱1.081 billion have been paid to 364,636 beneficiaries whose names could not be found in the database of targeted families for the government's poverty reduction program;

WHEREAS, the COA also noted that some ₱2.459 billion of CCT funds have either been granted to ineligible beneficiaries or left unclaimed, and that refunds for these amounts have not been supported by documents;

WHEREAS, 428 beneficiaries have also been found to be barangay officials, government employees, overseas Filipino workers, and members of middle-income families who received a total of ₱1.567 million in cash grants;

WHEREAS, state auditors have also flagged the DSWD for duplicate names for 4,320 CCT beneficiaries, which the COA said resulted in double payments of grants;

WHEREAS, while the 2013 audit report did not conclude that funds had been misused, the lapses in documentation and transparency committed by the DSWD open the government's CCT program to corruption;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for Congress to ensure that the CCT program serves its purpose as the flagship poverty reduction platform of the government;

WHEREAS, laws on transparency in government programs, including poverty reduction initiatives, should be intensified to deter corruption and to guarantee universal access to benefits of economic growth;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the recent Commission on Audit report that the conditional cash transfer program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development was riddled with ineligible beneficiaries, double payments, and unpaid grants.

Adopted,

/kmp


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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