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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay RECEIVED BY:

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE, WELFARE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INVOLVING THE REPORTED IRREGULARITIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAM THAT IS GEARED TOWARDS ALLEVIATING THE LIVING CONDITION OF EXTREMELY POOR HOUSEHOLDS AND IMPROVE THEIR HEALTH, NUTRITION AND EDUCATION.

WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 1. of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides, to wit: "The Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the common good. To this end, the State shall regulate the acquisition, ownership, use, and disposition of property and its increments.";

WHEREAS, news reports have indicated that the Commission on Audit ("COA") discovered P4.936 billion of unliquidated funds supposedly for the million beneficiaries included in the Conditional Cash Transfer ("CCT") program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development ("DSWD")<sup>1</sup>;

WHEREAS, COA said that these unliquidated funds are exposed to malversation, theft or other risks<sup>2</sup>:

WHEREAS, said unliquidated funds are in relation to the Philippine Postal Corporation's ("Philpost") role as one conduit of DSWD for the CCT's component of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program ("4Ps") through Philpost's mail stations in Ilocos Sur, Davao del Sur, Cavite, Ilocos Norte, Palawan, Rizal, La Union, Benguet and Mt. Province as payout centers<sup>3</sup>;

WHEREAS, another COA report, involving the Official Development Assistance ("ODA"), indicated that an amount of P50.15 million in the form of grants and service fees were paid to 7,782 household beneficiaries which could not be found in the List of Validated and Registered Household Beneficiaries of the National Household Targeting Office contrary to Special Provisions No. 5 of CY 2012 General Appropriations Act, thus, may be considered

Philippine Daily Inquirer Website; http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/634930/coa-p5b-cct-funds-lost-in-philpost.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ibid.

irregular and further resulting in additional cost to the Government in the distribution of Conditional Cash Transfers<sup>4</sup>;

WHEREAS, the above-mentioned irregularities are just a few cases that were reported in so far as CCT is concerned and taking into consideration the immediate impact of said program to the beneficiaries as well as the vulnerability of said beneficiaries concerning monetary assistance, there is a need to look into the implementation of said program to veer away any possible abuse and loopholes of the program that are prone to exploitation by opportunistic people to the disadvantage of said beneficiaries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it hereby resolved, to direct the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, involving the reported irregularities in the implementation by the department of social welfare and development of the conditional cash transfer program that is geared towards alleviating the living condition of extremely poor households and improve their health, nutrition and education.

Adopted,

MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

Senator

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Commission on Audit Website; http://www.coa.gov.ph/index.php/reports/official-development-assistance-oda-projects.