

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



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1186

RECEIVED BY: *J.*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENTLY RELEASED COMMISSION ON AUDIT (COA) REPORT THAT THE NATIONAL LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FAILED TO LIQUIDATE ₱7.615 MILLION IN PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUNDS (PDAF) RELEASED TO NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

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, state auditors found that as of 31 December 2013, ₱7.615 million in Priority Development Assistance Funds (PDAF) released to nongovernment organizations (NGOs) by four congressmen from 2009 to 2012 remains unliquidated;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Audit (COA) said that the livelihood programs for which the PDAF amount was allocated should have already been completed by the end of 2013 and the documents on the utilization to support the liquidation should have been submitted;

WHEREAS, the liquidation report on the PDAF of one congressman amounting to ₱1.725 million was also reportedly not supported with accurate and proper documents, casting doubt on the propriety of the expenses and the reliability of balances in financial statements;

WHEREAS, the COA recommended that the NLDC demand from the NGOs the immediate liquidation and/or refund of the PDAF;

WHEREAS, state auditors instructed the NLDC to inquire as well from the concerned congressmen on the status of their PDAFs released to selected NGOs;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has declared the PDAF unconstitutional, but it remains imperative that the government to account for all disbursements from the discretionary funds;

WHEREAS, NGOs have in the past been used in a massive scheme to siphon public funds for private benefit;

WHEREAS, Congress should put in place measures to ensure that NGOs transacting with government agencies abide by regulations, including the proper liquidation of funds they receive;

WHEREAS, the government should advance the state teacher education in the country if it is to improve the quality of education;

WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, should ensure that TEIs, especially state universities and colleges, are highly capable of training teachers;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the proper Senate committee to investigate, in aid of legislation, on the report that the passing rates for the licensure examination for teachers have been alarmingly low from 2009 to 2014.

Adopted,

/lfd, crd


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
SP