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SENATE P. S. R. No. **1296** 

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## Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 2 3 4 5	RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MOUNTING POLITICAL PRESSURES THAT REPORTEDLY PROMPTED THE RESIGNATION OF FORMER CUSTOMS COMMISSIONER JOHN SEVILLA
6	WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 27 provides: "The State shall maintain
7	honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft
8	and corruption";
9	WHEREAS, the Constitution further provides, in Article 2, Section 28: "Subject to
10	reasonable conditions prescribed by law, the State adopts and implements a policy of full public
11	disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest";
12	WHEREAS, reporting on the resignation of Customs Commissioner John Sevilla on 23
13	April 2015, various media organizations quoted the official as saying that he vacated his position
14	due to mounting political pressures;
15	WHEREAS, Sevilla purportedly cited a Malacanang lobby for the appointment or
16	reassignment of specific officials within the Bureau of Customs;
17	WHEREAS, media is also rife with accusations that Sevilla was forced to resign after he
18	refused to help a ruling political party raise funds for the 2016 presidential elections;
19	WHEREAS, the government must promote meritocracy in public service, and reject the
20	practice of rent-seeking, or the use of political appointments in exchange for electoral support;
21	WHEREAS, without prejudice to the parties being implicated in the controversy, the
22	Senate must investigate lobbies or anomalous schemes related to the 2016 presidential elections
23	in the Bureau of Customs or any other government agency;

1 WHEREAS, the Custom chief's resignation lends urgency for Congress to update laws

2 governing the management of the Bureau of Customs;

3 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 mounting

political pressures that reportedly prompted the resignation of former Customs Commissioner

6 John Sevilla.

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Adopted,

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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