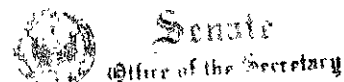
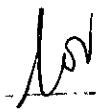


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )



15 OCT -8 P 1:14

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1620

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE  
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
ON THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT REPORT ON SUSPENDED AND DEFICIENT  
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS IN ZAMBOANGA CITY IN 2014

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 11, Section 1 provides:

2 Public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must at all  
3 times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility,  
4 integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest  
5 lives.

6 WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin* on 20 September 2015 reported that the Commission on  
7 Audit (COA) has chided the Zamboanga City government for the suspension and other  
8 deficiencies in its infrastructure program, including the construction of classrooms with defective  
9 blackboards;

10 WHEREAS, in its annual audit of the local government unit, the COA said that 75  
11 infrastructure projects amounting to ₱583.277 million have remained suspended in 2014, some  
12 of them since 2007;

13 WHEREAS, the COA claimed that funds intended for the projects remained idle and  
14 could have been utilized for other projects;

15 WHEREAS, the COA reportedly pointed out that the suspension contradicted the  
16 provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act;

17 WHEREAS, the implementation of 12 of the 75 projects have allegedly been suspended  
18 due to the absence of rights of way, as the projects would traverse private property;

19 WHEREAS, the COA said that suspension of projects could have been avoided had  
20 concerned officials of the city and the bids and awards committee strictly observed R.A. No.  
21 9184 that prohibits bidding and awarding of contracts for infrastructure unless the detailed  
22 engineering investigations, surveys, and designs including acquisition of rights of way for the  
23 projects have been sufficiently carried out along with other activities;

1           WHEREAS, state auditors also disclosed that the new classrooms were part of the 21  
2 infrastructure projects worth a total of ₱150.063 million that were found to have deficiencies and  
3 not in consonance with approved plans and specifications;

4           WHEREAS, the COA said the city government failed to heed the directive of the  
5 Department of Education on the blackboard issue since education officials prefer concave  
6 blackboards to give pupils a clearer view of the lessons written therein;

7           WHEREAS, the state auditors asked the city government to require the contractors to  
8 repair and/or rectify the noted deficiencies at their own expense;

9           WHEREAS, Congress, alongside its exercise of the power of purse, must ensure that  
10 public funds are prudently utilized by the local government units to which they have been  
11 allocated;

12           WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct  
13 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the suspended and  
14 deficient infrastructure programs in Zamboanga City in 2014.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
78