

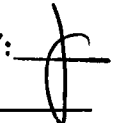


Senate
Office of the Secretary

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'16 JUL 25 P2:34

SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 23

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE, COMMERCE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON GOVERNMENT PLANS AND STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the Philippines has been recognized globally as Asia's "rising star" and "breakout nation" because of its strong economic performance and high growth amidst the global economic slowdown, outpacing all other Asian countries, including China, during the first quarter of 2016;

WHEREAS, the country continues to experience high unemployment and poverty rates, despite its high and fast-paced growth, and the strong economy continues to be exclusive and beneficial to only a few;

WHEREAS, the most pressing challenge to government today is how to effectively leverage the country's growth momentum to positively impact on the lives of the majority of the Filipinos, who are in dire need of decent jobs, sustainable livelihood and income opportunities;

WHEREAS, studies show that job creation for inclusive growth can be greatly facilitated through the development of micro enterprises, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and inclusive businesses particularly in the country side, where most of the poor are situated;

WHEREAS, one of the most significant barriers to business development and promotion is a poor regulatory environment for doing business in a country;

WHEREAS, the National Competitiveness Council (NCC), an agency created by virtue of Presidential Executive Order No. 571, as amended by Presidential Executive Order No. 44, is mandated to promote and develop national competitiveness, through public-private collaboration as a means to reduce poverty through inclusive growth and to implement the action agenda with private sector initiatives that support public policies;

WHEREAS, in 2013, NCC crafted the Gameplan for Competitiveness with the goal of simplifying government processes and making them more business-friendly, further creating ten work teams organized to start and implement reforms in the following stages of a business cycle, including Starting a Business, Dealing with Construction Permits, Getting Electricity, Registering Property, Getting Credit, Protecting Investors, Paying Taxes, Trading across Borders, Enforcing Contracts, and Resolving Insolvency. These reforms intend to translate to a state of Ease of Doing Business that can be felt by the public;

WHEREAS, in the latest Doing Business Report by the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Philippine ranking improved from 148th to 103rd out of ___ countries, as supported by improvement of ratings in Dealing with Construction Permits, Getting Electricity, Getting Credit and Resolving Insolvency with increases by 57, 35, 19 and 100 notches respectively;

WHEREAS, while there were recognized improvements in some processes, there were also downturns in rating in the areas of Starting a Business, Registering a Property, Protecting Minority Investors, Paying Taxes, Trading Across Borders and Enforcing Contracts, with ratings dropping by 9, 10, 23, 2, 34 and 22 notches respectively;

WHEREAS, there is a need to look at future plans to improve in the areas where rankings declined, to further strengthen reforms for areas where improvement has been evident, and to ensure that these efforts to improve the Ease of Doing Business in the country are prioritized and efficiently executed;

WHEREAS, there is a need for government, at both the national and local levels, the private sector, development partners and concerned citizen groups to coordinate and ensure a convergence of efforts and strategies to address these concerns and overcome the challenges that have hampered business development in the country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to direct the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on government plans and strategies to promote ease of doing business in the country.

Adopted,

