


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

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SENATE

Joint Resolution No. 2

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Ana Theresia "Risa" Hontiveros-Baraquel

**JOINT RESOLUTION URGING HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT
RODRIGO R. DUTERTE TO INCLUDE BOTTOM-UP BUDGETING
(BUB) ALLOTMENTS IN THE PROPOSED 2017, AND SUBSEQUENT,
GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACTS (GAA) FOR THE PURPOSE OF
ENSURING CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION IN THE BUDGETING
PROCESS AND STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONS AND
PRACTICES OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE, THUS LAYING A SOLID
FOUNDATION FOR FEDERALISM**

WHEREAS, a basic tenet of a thriving and dynamic democracy is active participation by citizens in governance;

WHEREAS, for federalism to succeed, the institutions of local governance, including citizens' organized sectoral groups, must be strengthened;

WHEREAS, the State recognizes the important role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) at all levels of social, political, and economic decision-making as they pursue and protect, "within the democratic framework, their legitimate and collective interests and aspirations through peaceful and lawful means," as provided in Sections 15 and 16, Article 13 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution;

WHEREAS, the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for 2017 incorporates funds to implement what is known as "Bottom-Up Budgeting" (BUB), the coverage of which has gradually increased from its inception to include all of the country's cities and municipalities;

WHEREAS, BUB is intended to encourage People's Organizations to actively engage their local governments in determining how public funds should be spent and enhance CSO participation in development planning at the local level;

WHEREAS, another important objective of the program is to break the chain of patronage by providing local governments with direct access to resources for projects without having to rely on legislators for funding support;

WHEREAS, to ensure that Local Government Units (LGUs) implementing BUB projects comply with all pertinent requirements, it is necessary that a rigorous screening process be put in place by, among others: convening a CSO Assembly for the purpose of electing a CSO Co-Chair and other representatives to the Local Poverty Reduction Action Team (LPRAT);

determining whether the proposed BUB project is aligned with the LGU's Local Poverty Reduction Action Plan (LPRAP); and processing, review, and validation by the Regional Poverty Reduction Action Team (RPRAT) of the LPRAP and the BUB projects included therein;

WHEREAS, a number of issues *vis-à-vis* the implementation of BUB projects have been noted, including: limited CSO participation due to lack of time, resources and skepticism toward sitting local executives; lack of appreciation for the program on the part of local executives and partner implementing agencies; and a failure to address specific community needs due to a limited menu of BUB projects;

WHEREAS, subsequent administrative issuances have addressed the foregoing concerns by introducing improvements to the implementation of the program, and expanding the menu of available projects;

WHEREAS, in connection with the 2017 GAA, all of the country's cities and municipalities have, as early as September 2015, initiated the BUB process by convening their CSO Assemblies, identifying potential projects, and having these projects vetted at the RPRAT level;

WHEREAS, a total of 13,634 projects amounting to P38 billion have been proposed under the BUB process for 2017, of which P35 billion will come from the National Government, with the rest coming from LGUs as their local counterpart;

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has recently announced that the BUB process will be terminated, thus rendering previous efforts to improve the program and include BUB projects in the 2017 GAA for naught;

WHEREAS, all the targeted goals that BUB wishes to achieve - stronger and autonomous local governments supported by informed and active citizen groups, the introduction of participatory governance mechanisms, and greater accountability of public officials - contribute to building the institutions necessary for the transition to a federal form of government;

NOW THEREFORE,

RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Philippine Senate and the House of Representatives jointly urge His Excellency President Rodrigo R. Duterte to continue the Bottom-Up Budgeting (BUB) allotments in the proposed 2017, and subsequent, General Appropriations Acts (GAA) for the purpose of ensuring citizens' participation in the budgeting process and strengthening the institutions and practices of local governance, thus laying a solid foundation for federalism;

Adopted.


ANA THERESIA "RISA" HONTIVEROS-BARAQUEL