



SENATE  
P.S. RESOLUTION NO. 577

'18 JAN -8 P2:47

Introduced by SENATOR PANFILO M. LACSON

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CONTROVERSIES CURRENTLY SURROUNDING THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE (PCSO) WITH THE END IN VIEW OF IMPROVING CURRENT LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS TO REVISE THE CHARTER OF PCSO AND LIKewise ENACT APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION TO PUT A CAP ON THE AMOUNT SPENT BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, OFFICES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, IN PARTIES AND OTHER OFFICE CELEBRATIONS

*Whereas*, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) is the principal government agency mandated by law to raise and provide funds for health programs, medical assistance and services, and charities of national character;

*Whereas*, the PCSO has been at the center of controversy this past month when its newly-appointed director Sandra Cam exposed that the Office allegedly held a lavish Christmas party on 19 December 2017 at the 5-star Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong, supposedly spending a total of Php10 million;

*Whereas*, while the PCSO General Manager claimed that only Php6 million was spent, and that such amount was for a total of 1,580 employees of the Office, such controversial party was still found by many to be extravagant, excessive and insensitive as it was held at a time when the country was still enduring the havoc of typhoons *Urduja* and *Vinta*, which came one after the other and respectively left 40 deaths, 34 missing, placed 14 local government units (LGUs) under state of calamity in the Visayas region<sup>1</sup>, and inflicted 200 deaths and displaced tens of thousands in the southern part of the country<sup>2</sup>;

*Whereas*, in addition thereto, the seeming lack of basis and empirical data for the Presumptive Monthly Retail Receipts (PMRR) and issues of STL being used as a front for the illegal numbers game of Jueteng likewise continue to bombard the PCSO;

*Whereas*, Sec. 6 (B) of Republic Act No. 1169, as amended by Batas Pambansa Blg. 42, provides that thirty percent (30%) of the net receipts of the PCSO shall be set aside as contributions to the charity fund from which the Board of Directors shall make payments or grants for health programs, medical assistance and services and/or charities of national character;

*Whereas*, allegations of continued corruption in the operation of STL and the lavish and extravagant spending of the Office and its officials would adversely affect the ability of PCSO to perform its mandate of giving charity services to the public;

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.philstar.com/cebu-news/2017/12/19/1769854/urduja-leaves-and-philippines-braces-vinta-deaths-now-40>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2017/12/25/1771645/vinta-death-toll-tops-200>

**Whereas**, Sec. 1 of Administrative Order No. 6 (s. 2017) provides that "Notwithstanding the repeal of AO No. 103, existing laws, rules and regulations mandating the judicious and prudent use of government funds shall remain in full force and effect, and all agencies and instrumentalities shall continue to ensure that no irregular, unnecessary, extravagant, excessive and unconscionable expenses shall be incurred by the Government.";

**Whereas**, bills regarding the amendment of the charter of the PCSO are currently pending with and being studied by the Committee on Games and Amusement;

**Whereas**, in line with the austerity measure being advocated and implemented by the President, to the extent of firing some members of the Executive Department for violation thereof, and his fight against corruption, there is a need to look into the current controversies surrounding the PCSO whose mandate is so closely related to servicing the needs of our less fortunate countrymen. *NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*

*AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED*, to direct as it hereby directs, the Senate Committee on Games and Amusement to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to determine the veracity of the allegations of controversy surrounding the PCSO for the purpose of improving current legislative efforts to revise its charter and likewise enact appropriate legislation to put a cap on the amount to be spent by government agencies and instrumentalities, including government owned or controlled corporations, in conducting parties and other office celebrations.

Adopted,

  
PANFILO M. LACSON  
Senator