

SENATE

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P.S. Res. No. 858

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Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND
INVESTIGATIONS (BLUE RIBBON) AND TOURISM TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE
NAYONG PILIPINO FOUNDATION'S NAYONLANDING
PROJECT AND THE SUPPOSED GRAFT AND CORRUPTION
ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED BY THE NAYONG PILIPINO
FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICIALS**

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Nayong Pilipino Foundation (NPF), a government owned and controlled corporation attached to the Department of Tourism, decided to embark on a public-private partnership (PPP) for the development of the Nayong Pilipino Entertainment City (NPEC) project, which sought to develop a property in Paranaque City into a tourism complex that would showcase Philippine culture and creative talents. However, in 2017, the Board of Trustees of the NPF, through Board Resolution No. 406-101217, resolved to discontinue the NPEC project as a PPP but instead via Republic Act No. 9184 or the Government Procurement Act.¹

WHEREAS, concomitantly, a lease contract has been entered into by the NPF for the lease of a nine (9) hectare, more or less, property at Entertainment City in Paranaque City with Landing Resorts Philippines Development Corp. (Landing International), a subsidiary of Hongkong based Landing International Development Ltd. for the development of a 1.5 billion US Dollar integrated leisure and resort casino.²

WHEREAS, on 07 August 2018, purportedly because of the above lease contract, the President sacked the Chairperson and the Trustees, and the top management of the NPF, stating among others that the lease contract was disadvantageous to the government. It has been alleged that the government would

¹ Press Statement: Nayon Landing Project, ppp.gov.ph, 08 August 2018

² The Nayong Pilipino Puzzle, opinion.inquirer.net, 26 August 2018.

lose at least Php517 million a year or more than Php25 billion in a 50-year lease contract.³

WHEREAS, in the previous year, or in 2017, allegations of graft, dishonesty, neglect of duty, grave misconduct, inefficiency and dishonesty were also raised against the NPF Board of Trustees in the Office of the Ombudsman.⁴

WHEREAS, on 24 August 2018, the Chairperson of Landing International was arrested in Cambodia and deported to China for allegations of bribery and supposedly running an investment scam which resulted in the share price drop of Landing International at the Hongkong Stock Exchange by 35%.⁵

WHEREAS, Landing International has allegedly engaged in other business activities in the Philippines using its affiliates and local partners;

WHEREAS, the foregoing events are more than puzzling enough to mandate a legislative inquiry if only to ferret out the truth from every allegation and supposition that apparently involves corruption, power play, incompetence and dishonesty in government, especially in this high stakes development project that amounts to billions of pesos.

WHEREAS, this inquiry is but imbued with public interest that must exact accountability from public officers and investors in government development projects.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT, RESOLVED AS IT HEREBY RESOLVED to *direct* the Senate Committees on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations (Blue Ribbon) and Tourism to conduct an inquiry on the Nayong Pilipino Foundation's Nayonlanding project and the supposed graft and corruption allegedly committed by the Nayong Pilipino Foundation trustees and officials with the end in view of enacting legislative measures to address the same.

Adopted,



³ Duterte Fires Top Nayong Pilipino Officials, Julie M. Aurelio, August 2018.

⁴ *Ibid*, opinion.inquirer.net, 26 August 2018.

⁵ *Ibid*.