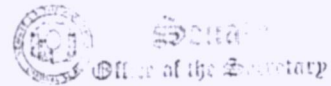


SENATE

S. No. 627



'19 JUL 18 P 4:02

Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

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**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING SECTION 40 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9710,**  
**OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MAGNA CARTA OF WOMEN**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Republic Act No. 9710, otherwise known as the Magna Carta of Women, provides the legal basis for the planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation for Gender and Development (GAD) program of a national government agency or local government unit (LGU), stating in part that:

“Section 36. Gender Mainstreaming as a Strategy for Implementing the Magna Carta of Women. — ...The development of GAD programs shall proceed from the conduct of a gender audit of the agency or the local government unit and a gender analysis of its policies, programs, services and the situation of its clientele; the generation and review of sex- disaggregated data; and consultation with gender/women's rights advocates and agency/women clientele. The cost of implementing GAD programs shall be the agency's or the local government unit's GAD budget which shall be at least five percent (5%) of the agency's or the local government unit's total budget appropriations.”

However, in as much as mechanisms are in place to monitor the compliance of concerned agencies and local government units to ensure the full utilization of the appropriated 5% of the total budget for their respective GAD programs, the overall statistics show that utilization of the appropriated GAD budget has not reached its full potential. Some implementing agencies fall behind in fulfilling this obligation. The Commission on Audit, for instance, noted that out of nineteen (19) GAD programmed

activities in the Office of the President in 2016, only six (6) were implemented with a total cost of P532,406.00 or 0.019% of the total appropriations of the agency'.<sup>1</sup>

Gender mainstreaming is a strategy which aims for the inclusion and prioritization of women's concerns and perspectives within agencies through the creation of gender-responsive programs tailored to positively impact both women and men.<sup>2</sup> Government is mandated by R.A. No. 9710 to successfully integrate and implement this strategy in their areas of development, and it is imperative for all agencies and LGUs to fulfill their obligation to efficiently utilize the prescribed 5% of the appropriated budget towards implementing programs, plans and actions that contribute to gender mainstreaming.

If any, this failure to utilize the appropriated budget for gender mainstreaming reflects on the work that has still to be done in order to inculcate the value and importance of gender equality and women empowerment in the government workplace and in society in general. Now, more than ever, under an administration leadership that not only appears to lack the necessary attention and respect for women, but also debases them through consistent attacks in public and official events, gender mainstreaming must be accomplished with urgency, so as not to institutionalize the current administration leadership's dehumanization of women in society, particularly of women leaders in government.

Only through a consistent and conscientious implementation of the Magna Carta of Women can government and Philippine society be truly rid of gender bias and the rampant misogyny that have presently reared their ugly heads in our midst once again. Towards this effort, our present laws on the protection of women and the programmatic education and mainstreaming of gender equality should not only be enforced and followed to the letter, but moreover, strengthened and accelerated. Only in this manner will we be able to counter the unapologetic exhibition of anti-women rhetoric that has dominated official government discourse since the start of the present administration.

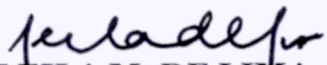
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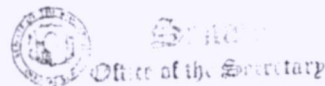
<sup>1</sup> Roxas, Joseph Tristan. "COA: Palace only spent 0.019% of P14-M budget for gender programs in 2016." 12 July 2017. GMA News Online. Available at: <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/617834/coa-palace-only-spent-0-019-of-p14-m-budget-for-gender-programs-in-2016/story/> <last visited on 16 May 2019>

<sup>2</sup> Philippine Commission on Women. "PCW and COA strengthen call for gender mainstreaming during the 2017 GAD Budget Fora." 10 November 2017. Available at: <https://pcw.gov.ph/article/pcw-and-coa-strengthen-call-gender-mainstreaming-during-2017-gad-budget-fora> <last visited on 16 May 2019>

This bill seeks to create a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee to strengthen mechanisms to monitor progress, compliance and implementation of R.A. No. 9710. Such is to complement the Commission on Human Right's function as Gender and Development Ombud, whose chairperson shall be designated as an *ex-officio* member of the oversight committee.

Approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
LEILA M. DE LIMA



SENATE  
S. No. 627

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Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

**AN ACT  
AMENDING SECTION 40 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9710,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MAGNA CARTA OF WOMEN**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress Assembled:*

1 Section 1. A new section shall be inserted after Section 40(a) of the Magna Carta  
2 of Women, to be read as follows:

3 "SECTION 40. Monitoring Progress and Implementation and  
4 Impact of this Act. — The PCW, in coordination with other state  
5 agencies and the CHR, shall submit to Congress regular reports on  
6 the progress of the implementation of this Act highlighting the  
7 impact thereof on the status and human rights of women:

8 xxx

9 **SECTION 40-A. JOINT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE. -**  
10 **THERE IS HEREBY CREATED A JOINT OVERSIGHT**  
11 **COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF**  
12 **THIS ACT. THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE SHALL BE**  
13 **COMPOSED OF FIVE MEMBERS EACH FROM THE**  
14 **SENATE AND THE HOUSE IN ADDITION TO THE**  
15 **CHAIRS OF THE COMMITTEES ON WOMEN,**  
16 **CHILDREN, AND GENDER EQUALITY, WHO SHALL BE**  
17 **CO-CHAIRS OF THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE. THE**

1           **MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE FOR EVERY**  
2           **HOUSE SHALL AT LEAST HAVE TWO OPPOSITION OR**  
3           **MINORITY MEMBERS. THE JOINT OVERSIGHT**  
4           **COMMITTEE SHALL HAVE ITS OWN INDEPENDENT**  
5           **COUNSEL. THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION**  
6           **ON HUMAN RIGHTS SHALL BE AN EX- OFFICIO**  
7           **MEMBER.”**

8           *Sec. 2. Repealing Clause.* — Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
9           order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this Act  
10          is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

11          *Sec. 3. Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its  
12          complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
13          circulation in the Philippines.

          Approved,