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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 110

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SUBMISSION OF A POST BUDGET STATUS REPORT OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF LEGISLATING MORE EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS AND STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT MECHANISMS TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OVER THE UTILIZATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS

1 WHEREAS, Section 28, Article II of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State
2 to adopt and implement a policy of full public disclosure of all its transactions involving
3 public interest, subject to reasonable conditions prescribed by law;

4 WHEREAS, Section 7, Article III of the 1987 Constitution recognizes the right
5 of the people to information on matters of public concern, and affords to the citizens
6 the access to official records, and to documents, and papers pertaining to official acts,
7 transactions, or decisions, as well as to government research data used as basis for
8 policy development, subject to such limitations as may be provided by law;

9 WHEREAS, Joaquin Bernas noted that the constitutional right to information
10 guarantees the right of the people to demand information, and recognizes the duty of
11 the officialdom to provide information even if nobody demands;

12 WHEREAS, transparency and access to information is particularly important in
13 the performance of the Legislature of its constitutional mandate to authorize the
14 annual goverment appropriations;

1 WHEREAS, Congress has included, in several government appropriation laws,
2 a provision that requires the submission of a report on the progress and
3 accomplishments of programs and projects funded through the General Appropriations
4 Act;

5 WHEREAS, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is mandated,
6 pursuant to Section 96 of Republic Act No. 10651, otherwise known as the General
7 Appropriations Act of 2015, to submit to Congress a Post 2015 Budget Status Report
8 together with the documents pertaining to the President's FY 2016 Budget of
9 Expenditures and Source of Financing (BESF) no later than thirty (30) days after the
10 opening of the third regular session of the Sixteenth (16th) Congress;

11 WHEREAS, such provision was reiterated in Section 100 of Republic Act
12 No. 10717, otherwise known as the General Appropriations Act of 2016, wherein DBM
13 is directed to submit such report within the succeeding year;

14 WHEREAS, the mandate was again reiterated in Section 90 of Republic Act
15 No. 10924, otherwise known as the General Appropriations Act of 2017, wherein the
16 DBM is mandated to submit a Post-2017 Budget Status Report no later than thirty (30)
17 days after the opening of the Second Regular Session of the Seventeenth Congress;

18 WHEREAS, the directive was again reiterated in Section 97 of Republic Act
19 No. 10964, otherwise known as the General Appropriations Act of 2018, wherein the
20 DBM is directed to submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
21 President of the Senate, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate
22 Committee on Finance a Post-2018 Budget Status Report not later than March
23 31,2019;

24 WHEREAS, the requirement for a Post Budget Status Report, as mandated in
25 the general appropriations laws for FYs 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018, has yet to be
26 substantially complied with;

27 WHEREAS, Section 104 of Republic Act No. 11260 directs the DBM to submit to
28 Congress a Post-2019 Budget Status Report no later than May 31, 2020;

29 WHEREAS, Section 90 of the National Expenditure Program for FY 2020
30 provides that the DBM shall submit a Post Budget Status Report no later than May 31,
31 2021;

1 WHEREAS, a Post Budget Status Report containing the accomplishment on all
2 programs, projects and activities of government agencies and instrumentalities is vital
3 in the exercise of the congressional oversight power on public expenditure in ensuring
4 that the government is held accountable for carrying out the letter and spirit of the
5 appropriation law;

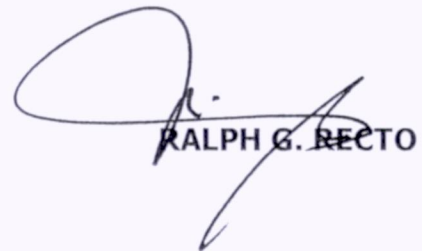
6 WHEREAS, a Post Budget Status Report is critical in monitoring the compliance
7 of various government agencies and instrumentalities with the requirements and/or
8 conditions in the utilization of public funds;

9 WHEREAS, a Post Budget Status Report is a crucial tool in the identification of
10 priority programs and projects as well as in the determination of the appropriate
11 funding levels for government agencies and instrumentalities; Now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, To direct the Senate
13 Committee on Finance to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the submission
14 of a Post Budget Status Report of the national government, with the end in view of
15 legislating more effective and responsive government appropriations and
16 strengthening government mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability
17 over the utilization of public funds.

Adopted,

/mdg


RALPH G. RECTO