

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

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SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 592

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED MASSIVE
FRAUDULENT REGISTRATION OF VOTERS FOR THE 2023 BARANGAY AND
SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article V of the 1987 Constitution provides that suffrage may be exercised by all citizens of the Philippines, not otherwise disqualified by law, who are at least eighteen years of age, and who shall have resided in the Philippines for at least one year and in the place wherein they propose to vote, for at least six months immediately preceding the election;

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Republic Act No. 8189, otherwise known as "The Voter's Registration Act of 1996", provides that it is the policy of the State to systematize the present registration in order to establish a clean, complete, permanent, and updated list of voters;

WHEREAS, under Section 261 (y) of the Batas Pambansa Bilang 881, otherwise known as the "Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines", it is unlawful for any person to knowingly make any false or untruthful statement in his or her application for registration. It is likewise unlawful for any registered voter to register anew without filing an application for cancellation of his or her previous registration;

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the aforementioned laws and earnest efforts of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to enforce them, the problems pertaining to the so-called "flying voters" or voters who are registered in multiple precincts, as well as, voters who are not *bona fide* residents of the place where they are registered in, still persist;

WHEREAS, on September 4, 2020, CNN Philippines reported that over 77,000 double or multiple registration records were removed by the COMELEC. The Commission also ordered its election officers to conduct preliminary investigations and to file exclusion cases against the violators, noting that this is done especially in Metro Manila where fraud is rampant;

WHEREAS, it was reported on 31 March 2022 that the COMELEC managed to detect 892,627 double registrations for the 2022 National and Local Elections. Then COMELEC Commissioner George Erwin M. Garcia stated that the Commission will be filing cases against double or multiple registrants and noted that "good faith is not a good defense in election cases";

WHEREAS, on 3 May 2023, a video posted on the social media platform *Facebook* purportedly shows persons attempting to register in a COMELEC Office in Makati City even though they do not reside in the area;

WHEREAS, in an online article published by the Philippine Star dated 3 May 2023 entitled, "Are Fake Voters invading your barangay like this one?", it was reported that there are massive increases in the number of registered voters in some barangays, far outpacing the projected population growth forecasted by government agencies;

WHEREAS, one particular instance where there is a massive and unexplained increase in registered voters and registration applicants involve Barangay Carmona in Makati City (Barangay Carmona) where the number of registered voters and registration applicants surged by 78%, from just 4,718 registered voters during the recently concluded 2022 National and Local Elections to 8,415 registered voters and registration applicants for the upcoming 2023 Barangay Elections. The Chairman of Barangay Carmona, Joselito M. Salvador, attested that there was neither a recent mass migration of new residents into the barangay nor an increase in the territory of the barangay. Thus, the sharp rise in the numbers cannot be accounted for;

WHEREAS, the same article stated that when Barangay Chairman Salvador challenged the applications for registration of 497 applicants, such applicants executed affidavits to withdraw their respective applications. Allegedly, the identification cards used by these applicants in executing their individual affidavits for the withdrawal of their registration applications show that they do not reside in Barangay Carmona. Based on their identification cards, some of these registration applicants reside as far away as Bulacan, Zambales, Laguna, and Mindoro Occidental;

WHEREAS, there are allegations that the purported massive fraudulent voter registrations are bankrolled by big-time businessmen, contractors, and suppliers in

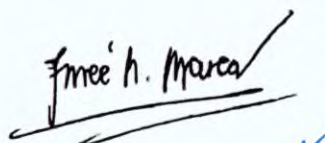
anticipation of the increase in the internal revenue allotment of barangays brought about by the Supreme Court's ruling in *Mandanas vs. Executive Secretary et al.*;

WHEREAS, concerns have been voiced out that the situation in Barangay Carmona may be happening in many other barangays all over the country;

WHEREAS, given the persistent problems on flying voters and fraudulent voter registrations, there is an urgent need to revisit existing election laws including, but not limited to, the Voter's Registration Act of 1996 and the relevant portions of the Omnibus Election Code, so that necessary changes may be made in order to decisively address these long-standing issues;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, that the appropriate Senate Committee be directed to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the alleged massive fraudulent voter registrations.

Adopted,


IMEE R. MARCOS