

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



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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

P.S. Res. No. 735

Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE IMPACT AND EFFECTS OF THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY'S INVESTMENTS TO PHILIPPINE EMPLOYMENT, ECONOMY, AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, based on the data from the Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA), the Philippines faced significant challenges with regard to poverty in 2021. Approximately 19.99 million Filipinos struggled to meet the poverty threshold of Php 12,030 per month for a family of five;

WHEREAS, PSA also stated that around 3.5 million Filipinos were classified as poor, and about 1.04 million people fell below the poverty line;

WHEREAS, as of March 2023, the unemployment rate stands at 4.7%, translating to 2.42 million unemployed Filipinos;

WHEREAS, these figures highlight the ongoing socioeconomic disparities and emphasize the urgency for targeted efforts to alleviate poverty and unemployment, and improve the living conditions of the marginalized sector of society;

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 20 of the Philippine Constitution provides that the State recognizes the indispensable role of the private sector, encourages private enterprise, and provides incentives to needed investments;

WHEREAS, according to the report of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), the total number of investments under PEZA amounted to Php 4.210 trillion for the period of 1995 to April 2023;

WHEREAS, for the period of January to May 2023, PEZA's total approved investments amounted to Php 48.027 billion, which is 153.74% higher as compared to the Php 18.928 billion in the same period in 2022;

WHEREAS, based on the report of PEZA, as of March 2023, PEZA generated 1,820,126 direct employment and 10,920,816 direct and indirect employment;

WHEREAS, PEZA contributed 16% to the Philippines' Gross Domestic Product last 2021;

WHEREAS, in 2022, PEZA remitted Php 1.542 billion to the National Government, totaling Php 26.889 for the period of 1995 to 2022;

WHEREAS, PEZA has a significant function in the development and support of ecozones in the countryside in order to promote rural development, ensure inclusive growth, and create robust economic activity in order to spread investments in areas outside of Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, the inclusion of PEZA's participation in expediting the implementation of the ecozone transformation roadmap, which expands the different types of special economic zones registrable under PEZA in the Philippine Development Plan (2023-2028), affirms its role as a catalyst for economic growth;

WHEREAS, the State recognizes the crucial and strategic role of PEZA in attracting foreign investments, creating employment opportunities, and accelerating economic growth in the country;

WHEREAS, the Special Economic Zone Law was passed in 1995 and needs to be reviewed not just in the light of economic revenues but also externalities, natural capital, and transfer of technology, especially those that will usher in renewable energy and other innovations that will help overcome the climate and biodiversity crisis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Senate, to direct the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the impact and effects of PEZA's investments to Philippine employment, economy, and regional development.

Adopted,


LOREN LEGARDA