

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

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SENATE  
PS. Reso. No. **392**

RECEIVED BY:                     

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Introduced by: Senator Lacson

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ROLE BEING PLAYED BY THE OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY IN ORGANIZING AND CONDUCTING JOB AND LIVELIHOOD FAIRS IN THE LIGHT OF THE REPORTED EXORBITANT FEES BEING COLLECTED BY SAID OFFICE FROM PRIVATE COMPANIES AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES PARTICIPATING THEREIN, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF STOPPING THIS MONEYMAKING ACTIVITY BY UNSCRUPULOUS INDIVIDUALS TO THE DETRIMENT OF ORDINARY FILIPINO JOBSEEKERS.**

*Whereas*, Article XIII, Section 3 of the Constitution partly provides "the state shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all;"

*Whereas*, pursuant to this policy and our government recognition of the indispensable role of the private sector in national development, government agencies and private enterprises are joining hands in providing employment to our people through the holding of job and livelihood fairs;

*Whereas*, said job and livelihood fairs showcase local and overseas job opportunities and, at the same time, provide livelihood assistance and opportunities for people who wish to earn extra income or engage in entrepreneurial undertakings;

*Whereas*, it was widely reported that the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS) recently cancelled a job fair that was scheduled December 3-4, 2005 because of allegations that exorbitant fees were being charged by the Office of Press Undersecretary Robert Rivera to the participating government agencies and private enterprises;

*Whereas*, according to reports, Undersecretary Rivera was charging an exorbitant fee of P60,000 to participating firms and companies, prompting them to question said fees and to call for an investigation;

*Whereas*, said amount was alleged to be too steep a price for a two-day event considering that air-conditioned spaces in popular malls in Metro Manila charge way below P30,000 for similar events;

*Whereas*, even government agencies were reportedly not spared from this moneymaking scheme, with at least one agency reportedly shelling out P70,000 after being initially charged P200,000;

*Whereas*, to justify their collection of the said fees, Undersecretary Rivera reportedly stated that the fees would be spent on the construction of booths and tents as well as food to be served to the participants;


*Whereas*, although Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye made the statement that the affair was cancelled to avoid further controversy, Undersecretary Rivera, to further muddle the issue, was quoted as saying that the cancellation was made necessary because of security reasons;

*Whereas*, it was admitted that the job fair was not within the mandate of the Office of the Press Secretary, as this properly belongs to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), which under the Administrative Code of 1987 is mandated to "*assume primary responsibility for the promotion of gainful employment opportunities and the optimization of the development and utilization of the country's manpower resources*;"

*Whereas*, at this time wherein the unemployment rate is 12.8%, these job and livelihood fairs would be of great help to our people, and it is therefore unconscionable that said programs are being made into a moneymaking scheme by some unscrupulous individuals; **Now, therefore**,

**BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to direct as it hereby directs the appropriate committees of the Senate to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported moneymaking activity of some unscrupulous individuals in the Office of the Press Secretary in the conduct of job and livelihood fairs which are being participated in by government agencies and private enterprises, with the end in view of preventing the further occurrence of said illegal schemes to the detriment of our people and at the same time determine the appropriateness of the involvement of the Office of the Press Secretary in said endeavors.

*Adopted,*

  
PANFILO M. LACSON  
Senator