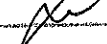


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

7 JUL 18 2011

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P. S. R. No. 11

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE OF ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, DEPARTMENTS, AND AGENCIES WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS AND ALL LAWS RELEVANT TO CITIZENS' ACCESS TO INFORMATION AS A MEANS OF CURBING GRAFT AND CORRUPTION

WHEREAS, Section 7 of Article III of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that, "The right of the people to information on matters of public concern shall be recognized. Access to official records, and to documents, and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions, or decisions, as well as to government research data used as basis for policy development, shall be afforded the citizen, subject to such limitations as may be provided by law.";

WHEREAS, several laws were enacted in consonance with this constitutional provision, among these are Republic Act 6713 otherwise known as the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials, RA 8150 or "An Act Providing for a Four-Year Public Works and Highways Infrastructure Program", RA 6954 or "An Act Requiring All Department of Public Works and Highways Projects and other Government Infrastructure Projects to be Photographed Before Commencement, During Implementation, and After Completion Thereof", and RA 9184 or the "E-Procurement Law";

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court also issued A0 02-2002, an administrative circular adopting a disclosure policy;

WHEREAS, the said Constitutional provisions and related laws promote a widely-informed citizenry and affords the public access to information regarding the activities of the officials, personnel and employees of the government who are expected to be responsible and accountable to the taxpayers;

WHEREAS, despite the Philippines having one of the most comprehensive laws and policies aimed at addressing graft and corruption, it has not fared well in various evaluations and surveys conducted by several local and foreign survey institutions;

WHEREAS, it has been observed that some unscrupulous officials and possibly a 'mafia' composed of some high officials and employees in the government have been committing serious breaches of the transparency policy purportedly to muddle transactions and perpetuate the culture of corruption pervading the bureaucracy;

WHEREAS, it is high time for all the departments, offices and agencies of the Philippine government to allow access to public records and observe transparency and disclosure of policies of the government;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Information and Mass Media to conduct inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the implementation and compliance of all government offices, departments, and agencies with the Constitutional provision and all laws relevant to citizen's access to information as a means of curbing graft and corruption.

Adopted,


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator