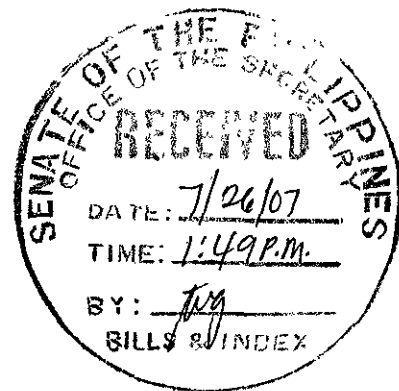


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
PSR No. 44



Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE FEES COLLECTED BY GOVERNMENT LINE AGENCIES

WHEREAS, in the July 10, 2007 article of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, it was reported that government line agencies will increase the fees and charges they collect from the public for services rendered by them;

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Finance (DOF), said move was prompted by the lower than target amount of the fees collected by government agencies involved in issuing permits and licenses to the public like driver's licenses, passports, NBI clearance, import permits, etc;

WHEREAS, furthermore, DOF said that the government's revenue collection from January of this year amounted to P7.98 billion, which is only 71percent of the official target for the first quarter, or P11.195 billion. In order to make up for the deficit and reach the mid year target of P19.975 billion, government agencies should remit P11.995 billion;

WHEREAS, in a press release from the Office of the President's official website, Memorandum Circular 132 required all departments, bureaus, commissions and agencies to seek the approval of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) before raising fees or collecting new ones;

WHEREAS, however, in the July 10, 2007 article of the Business World, a memorandum was sent to the DOF on July 4 reducing such requirement by merely seeking the clearance of the NEDA Board. This clearance, according to Finance Undersecretary Gil S. Beltran, simply involves informing the NEDA of the hike plans while the authority to approve the fee hike remains with the department chiefs as stated in the Revised Administrative Code;

WHEREAS, if this is true, there is clearly a departure from the thrust of the government to ensure that fees and charges it imposes do not undermine the business sector capability to be globally competitive;


WHEREAS, likewise, such memorandum is certainly a deviation from the State's duty to serve its citizenry by removing the mechanisms to ensure that these government agencies are not charging exorbitant fees that would improperly enrich the government at the expense of the public;

WHEREAS, government agencies charging the public for their services like Land Transportation Office, National Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Customs and Department of Foreign Affairs, among others, must impose charges only to regain the costs incurred by the services and not to earn from public oriented transactions;

WHEREAS, thus, there is an urgent need to look into the planned increase in service charges imposed by government agencies to ensure that they are not passing on unnecessary burden to the Filipino public;

WHEREAS, moreover, it is necessary to examine whether remedial measures must be introduced to implement a policy of full public disclosure in determining such charges by submitting such hike plans to public consultation prior to its implementation;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, TO DIRECT THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE PENDING FEE HIKE OF GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

Adopted, 


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator