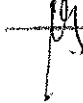


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 57

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

**RESOLUTION CALLING A CAUCUS OF ALL SENATORS IN THE 14TH
CONGRESS TO ESTABLISH STRATEGIC MEASURES AND PRIORITY
LEGISLATION TO SOLVE THE MOST URGENT PROBLEMS OF OUR NATION
AND RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT**

WHEREAS, the prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people, as well as secure and defend the nation and uplift the people's lives, through political, economic, and social reforms;

WHEREAS, the very basic automation of the outdated manual electoral system, the alarming rise in incidence of extra-judicial killings, and the rampant corruption in the country have yet to be addressed by the Government;

WHEREAS, the country's resources need to be administered given the widespread poverty, a reported 15 million Filipinos who live on less than \$1 a day, hunger incidence at 19% of the population, a 7.8% unemployment rate, a low literacy rate afflicting the competitiveness of the people globally, and poor access to cheap medicines and adequate health care;

WHEREAS, the national government's public debt at \$316.65 billion, a growth rate in Gross Domestic Product of 5.3 %, and the escalating prices of basic and essential commodities compel us to act to resurrect the economy;

WHEREAS, the distribution of global economic freedom according to the Index of Economic Freedom ranks the country 97 out of 117 countries making the Philippines relatively weak in terms of business freedom, investment freedom, monetary freedom, property rights, and freedom from corruption;

WHEREAS, in spite of various infrastructure projects nationwide reported by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in her recent State of the Nation Address, the basic question of how to optimize the use of infrastructure projects to attract businesses and investments in agriculture and tourism, among others, that would create jobs and opportunities to ultimately improve the quality of life of the people still remains;

WHEREAS, in view of the foregoing reasons, there is indeed a pressing need for the Senate to unite as one unit, to promote better governance and management

leading to the successful pursuit of a national legislative agenda for the common good;

WHEREAS, a caucus of all Senators to identify strategic measures and priority legislation to effectively and efficiently solve the most urgent problems of the nation was called at the start of the 13th Congress and led the Senate to pass enabling legislation to solve the country's budget deficit and fiscal debt, as well as equipped the Senators with many important facts to pass necessary legislation on fiscal reforms, financial reforms, job and income generation, security and peace and order, and education and health;

WHEREAS, a united legislative agenda by the Senate, as in the 13th Congress, containing our priority legislation would work well for the good of the country, the undersigned Senator further proposes to set aside partisan politics and work collectively as one Senate, to explore new roads to progress and adopt expedient solutions to the urgent demands of the people; and

WHEREAS, priority legislative measures that were sent to the archives in the past should be resurrected in the 14th Congress and that all documents and records of deliberations should be acknowledged by the incoming committees to hasten their enactment;

WHEREAS, to unite our nation and secure our people's well-being, we, as true patriots, legislators and public servants, must work together in advocating the needs of our nation, motivated primarily by our will to serve: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, as it is hereby resolved, To call a caucus of all Senators in the 14th Congress to establish strategic measures and priority legislation to solve the most urgent problems of our nation and restore confidence in government.

Approved,



RICHARD J. GORDON