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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
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SENATE

P.S. No. 476

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY THE HONORABLE MAR ROXAS

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED EFFORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT TO GATHER SIGNATURES FOR A BOGUS PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, on 10 March 2006, the Department of Interior and Local Government issued Memorandum Circular No. 2006-25, directing local government officials to conduct barangay assemblies on March 25 and October 21;

WHEREAS, news reports state that a signature campaign for amending the Constitution through a people's initiative would be the main agenda in the barangay assemblies;

WHEREAS, a barangay health worker interviewed on television said that she was promised a certain amount of money in exchange for signatures that she can submit in support of a People's Initiative;

WHEREAS, Article XVII, Section 2 of the Constitution clearly states that a people's initiative can only be used to amend, not revise, the Constitution;

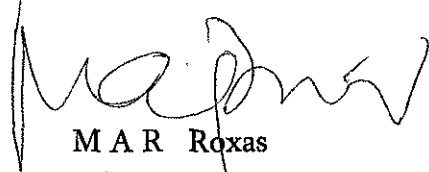
WHEREAS, in *Defensor Santiago vs. Comelec* (G.R. No. 127325), the Supreme Court enjoined signature-gathering activities for a people's initiative until an enabling law is passed;

WHEREAS, in the same case, the Supreme Court ruled that the COMELEC is "permanently enjoined from entertaining or taking cognizance of any petition for initiative on amendments on the Constitution until a sufficient law shall have been validly enacted to provide for the implementation of the system";

WHEREAS, in light of this ruling, the COMELEC is prohibited from entertaining any petition and verifying the signatures supporting the petition, thus rendering, the alleged ongoing signature campaign of the administration highly questionable;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the alleged efforts of the executive branch of government to gather signatures for a bogus People's Initiative.

Adopted,


MAR Roxas
Senator