

SENATE

P.S RESOLUTION No. 489

Introduced by Senator Lacson

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED ANOMALIES PERPETRATED BY OFFICIALS OF THE NATIONAL PRINTING OFFICE THAT INCLUDE THE USE OF ITS RESOURCES AND POWERS TO FAVOR CERTAIN ENTITIES, AND TO PROMOTE THIS PRESENT ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO AMEND THE 1987 CONSTITUTION THRU PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE.

Whereas, the National Printing Office, formerly the Bureau of Printing was created by virtue of the Philippine Commission Act No. 296 on November 7, 1901. This agency was later renamed as the Government Printing Office sometime in 1972,

Whereas, on July 25, 1987, under the Revolutionary Constitution of then President Cory Aquino, the Government Printing Office was merged with the printing unit of the Philippine Information Agency and was placed under the Office of the Press Secretary;

Whereas, per Executive Order No. 285 entitled Abolishing the General Services Administration and Transferring its Functions to Appropriate Agencies, dated July 25, 1987, the National Printing Office was created out of the merger of the Government Printing Office and the relevant printing units of the Philippine Information Agency;

Whereas, under the said Executive Order, the National Printing Office shall have exclusive printing jurisdiction over the following:

- a.) Printing, binding and distribution of all standard and accountable forms of national, provincial, city and municipal governments, including government corporations;
- b.) Printing official ballots;
- c.) Printing of public documents such as the Official Gazette, General Appropriations Act, Philippine Reports, and development information materials of the Philippine Information Agency;

Whereas, of late, the National Printing Office is embroiled in controversial activities including but not limited to: 1) allegation of over-printing of returns in the 2004 election; 2) rigging of government contracts to favor certain contractors; 3) harassment of career officials in the NPO who refuse to cooperate in suspicious activities; 4) extortion incidents, where the chairperson and other members of the NPO Bids and Awards Committee have allegedly asked some 1.5 to 6.5% by way of commissions per contract from accredited private printers in exchange for the contracts and 5) alleged use by the NPO-OIC of a Nissan Sentra car purportedly owned by a major stockholder of Ready Forms Printing Co, an accredited printing company of the NPO;

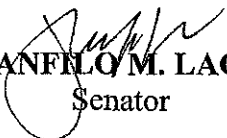
Whereas, NPO was tasked to print 20,000 copies (4 pieces or pages per set) of a supposed Primer on People's Initiative prepared by the Sigaw ng Bayan Movement or 80,000 pieces of a document on Constitutional Reforms prepared by one Atty. Raul L. Lambino, also of the same organization as shown by Work Order No. 048675 dated April 27, 2006;

Whereas, the printing of the said documents is outside its mandate and belies the claim of this administration that the ongoing move by Sigaw ng Bayan to amend the fundamental law through the so-called People's Initiative is a purely private undertaking. This strongly indicates that the move to amend the fundamental law has in fact the blessings if not the outright approval of the President;

Whereas, the foregoing not only show an agency that has been corrupted by the system, it likewise reveals the agency that has become a willing tool in the unlawful plan of this administration to amend the Constitution through the mechanism of the people's initiative; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct as it is hereby directs, the proper Committees of the Senate, to inquire, in aid of legislation into the reported anomalies in the National Printing Office as well as into the improper use of its resources by the administration in what is supposed to be a purely private undertaking of amending the Constitution, with the end in view of providing remedial legislation that will prevent the further occurrence of said anomalous and improper transactions and acts to the prejudice of the service and the general public who expects full accountability from their elected and appointed leaders.

Adopted.


PANFILO M. LACSON
Senator