



**SENATE**  
P.S. Resolution No. 503

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Introduced by SENATOR JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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**RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO  
CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE  
ALLEGED USE OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS FOR THE ADVOCACY OF  
PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2006, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo issued Executive Order No. 495 creating a Charter Change Advocacy Commission primarily to advocate the shift from presidential to a parliamentary form of government, from a unitary structure of government to autonomous territories/federal states and liberalization of the economy, as embodied in the proposed amendment of the 1987 Constitution;

WHEREAS, the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), an umbrella organization of all local government leagues, issued Resolution No. 2006-02 last January 14, 2006, supporting the proposals of the People's Consultative Commission on Charter Change through People's Initiative and Referendum as a mode of amending the 1987 Constitution;

WHEREAS, *Sigaw ng Bayan* Movement, a multi-sectoral coalition of various organizations and a staunch advocate of People's Initiative has been conducting various activities throughout the country for constitutional reforms;

WHEREAS, Article XVII, Section 2 of the 1987 Constitution clearly states that a People's Initiative can only be used to amend, not revise, the Constitution;

WHEREAS, in October 06, 2006 during the budget hearing on the proposed 2007 budget of the Office of the Press Secretary, Secretary Ignacio R. Bunye admitted that at least Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000.00) was utilized for the activities of the *Sigaw ng Bayan* Movement;

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 25, (6) of the Constitution provides that discretionary funds for particular officials shall be disbursed only for PUBLIC PURPOSES to be supported by appropriate vouchers and subject to such guidelines as may be prescribed by law;

WHEREAS, reports and information reveal that public funds were utilized to advocate People's Initiative as a means to proposing amendments to the Constitution proves that indeed, such endeavor did not emanate from the Filipino electorate but instead was initiated by the government;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,**  
that the Senate direct the appropriate committee to conduct an investigation, in  
aid of legislation, on the alleged ~~use~~ use of government funds for the advocacy of  
People's Initiative.

*Adopted,*

  
**JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**  
Senator