

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

8 JUL 29 2012

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 534

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CREATION OF AN OFFICE IN EACH
MUNICIPALITY TO FACILITATE COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PROJECTS TO
DELIVER POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 9 states that "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

WHEREAS, an article in the 24 July 2008 issue of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* cited an alleged report by the Department of Social Welfare and Development on the success of two Ifugao towns, Tinoc and Asipulo, that have survived the economic crisis because of the government's Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (Kalahi) program;

WHEREAS, the Kalahi program, compels government agencies to fuse resources to fulfill community development projects, which are all identified by their beneficiaries;

WHEREAS, the program allows 106 of the country's poorest villages to prioritize the services they require from the government to pull them out of poverty;

WHEREAS, according to Uberto Gregorio, consultant of the Kalahi program, barangays Tinoc and Asipulo chose projects that opened trade routes to impoverished and neglected villages in their areas;

WHEREAS, Tinoc Mayor Lopez Pugung allegedly said the new roads allowed farmers to finally trade vegetables in markets of Baguio and Bambang in Nueva Vizcaya resulting to efficient trading and better life prospects;

WHEREAS, it was previously reported in various media that 16 Tinoc residents were convicted for trading marijuana; however, with better roads, marijuana production allegedly decreased significantly in the area;

WHEREAS, despite the benefits communities reap from Kalahi projects, Janet Armas, Kalahi Cordillera project manager allegedly said that these projects also have social consequences. Such as the destruction of Tinoc's mossy forests to create new roads and expand farms;

WHEREAS, barangay Tinoc allegedly adopted an ordinance creating an office to facilitate community-driven projects, and has earmarked 70 percent of its annual development fund for fulfilling them;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the government create better social programs to address the economic crisis in the long run than create knee-jerk and one-time programs that will only benefit the people in the short run;

WHEREAS, the Kalahi project could be further expanded to include more than 106 barangays, so as to address other depressed areas in the country, and which perhaps will result in a decrease in the crime rate due to poverty;

WHEREAS, public officials of municipalities, especially those of depressed areas should cooperate with the private sector on coming up with ideas for projects that would better the community;

WHEREAS, an office facilitating community-driven projects should be created in each municipality to address the needs of the community by developing long term projects that will contribute to the continuous development of the community;

WHEREAS, this office should conduct a study on the strengths of the community which it can develop; ensure that development projects will not go simply to building waiting sheds, basketball courts and other amenities that could be deferred for the meantime for more reasonable programs; and tie-up with government agencies or the private sector and solicit grants for the fulfillment of these poverty alleviation projects aside from merely relying on government funds that may be inadequate for the realization of their projects;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the creation of an office in each municipality to facilitate community-driven projects to deliver poverty alleviation programs.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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