

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

8 OCT -7 2014

SENATE

RECEIVED BY:



P. S. Res. No. 702

INTRODUCED BY THE HONORABLE MAR ROXAS

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE TO CONVENE ITSELF AS A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED PHP728 MILLION FERTILIZER FUND SCAM PRIMARILY FOR THE PURPOSE OF GIVING THE FILIPINO PEOPLE, THROUGH THE SENATE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, THE RIGHT TO HEAR THE TESTIMONY OF FORMER DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UNDERSECRETARY JOCELYN BOLANTE ON THE MATTER UPON HIS DEPORTATION TO THE PHILIPPINES AND AFTER ISSUANCE OF THE PROPER INVITATION AND/OR COMPLIANCE WITH SUCH OTHER LEGAL PROCESSES THAT MAY BE WARRANTED FOR THE SENATE TO ACQUIRE JURISDICTION OVER HIS PERSON.

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution in no uncertain terms declares that public office is a public trust, hence, public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice and lead modest lives;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article II, Section 27 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption;

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 28 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, further requires the State to "adopt and implement a policy of full public disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest";

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 7 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution further affirms the right of the people to information on matters of public concern, and guarantees every citizen "access to official records, and to documents and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions or decisions";

WHEREAS, it is an unfortunate fact that despite of these clear constitutional mandates upholding transparency and accountability in public office, the 2008 Corruption Perception Index reported by *Transparency International* showed that this year's score is the lowest for the country since 1995, and the country is perceived as more corrupt now than last year;

WHEREAS, in spite of the numerous investigations conducted on major corruption issues including the Php 728 Million Fertilizer Funds Scam, there is a continuing culture of inculpability which only perpetuates a cycle of graft and corruption;

WHEREAS, five years have passed since the Committee on Agriculture chaired by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, Jr. and Blue Ribbon Committee chaired by Sen. Joker Arroyo have diligently and thoroughly conducted their own investigation into the Php728 Million Fertilizer Funds Scam and concluded that the strong, probable criminal culpability of Mr. Bolante and other identified Department of Agriculture officials was established;

WHEREAS, notwithstanding that the fertilizer fund issue has run a long and arduous course, the issue still begs for closure as the “main architect” of the scam has yet to testify and bare the details of his involvement on the issue and more importantly, where Filipino taxpayers’ money were diverted;

WHEREAS, this same conviction can be clearly surmised from the Senate Committee Report, as it gives the caveat that “the fertilizer fund scam will never be fully closed without the testimony of its brains and implementor, Joc-joc Bolante”

WHEREAS, we owe it not only to the farmer-beneficiaries whose names were used to get hold of the fertilizer funds, but to the entire country to give closure to this issue by ensuring that Mr. Bolante is given the chance to testify in consideration of the people’s right to be informed of matters of public concern;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the constitutional mandate that public office is a public trust, it is our obligation to the Filipino people to invite Mr. Bolante before the Senate and give him the right to be heard to account for the Php728 Million Fertilizer Fund Scam;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate convene itself as a Committee of the Whole to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged Php728 Million Fertilizer Fund Scam primarily for the purpose of giving the Filipino people, through the Senate Committee of the Whole, the right to hear the testimony of former Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante on the matter upon his deportation to the Philippines and after issuance of the proper invitation and/or compliance with such other legal processes that may be warranted for the Senate to acquire jurisdiction over his person.

Adopted,


M A R ROXAS
Senator