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SENATE
P.S.R. No. 718

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Introduced by
Committee on Finance

RESOLUTION
URGING THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT TO CONDUCT A SPECIAL AUDIT ON THE
LOCAL AND FOREIGN DONATIONS, BOTH IN CASH AND IN-KIND
RECEIVED BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT FOR THE VICTIMS OF
SUPER TYPHOON "YOLANDA"

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 27 of the Constitution states that it is the policy of the State to maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption;

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 28 of the Constitution states, "Subject to reasonable conditions prescribed by law, the State may adopt and implement a policy of full disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest";

WHEREAS, with the destruction brought by super typhoon, "Yolanda", one of the most destructive cyclones ever recorded that hit the country, causing heavy rainfall, flash flood and landslides throughout the archipelago, particularly in the Visayas regions, there was an outpour of support from citizens, foreigners, local and international organizations, and foreign governments to assist the Philippine Government in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the affected areas;

WHEREAS, the government, in response to the urgent demand to monitor the movement of foreign aid for super typhoon "Yolanda," launched the Foreign Aid Transparency Hub (FAiTH), an online portal of information on calamity assistance pledged or given by countries and international organizations, as well as donations coursed through the Commission on Filipinos Overseas' (CFO) Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino program (LINKAPIL), and, future donations coursed through Philippine embassies abroad;

WHEREAS, during the public hearing conducted by the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Public Expenditures last May 7, 2014, it was found out that there is no particular agency that is in charge of collating all information on donations to the government, both in cash and in-kind, from local and foreign sources despite the tracking of the status of foreign assistance being undertaken by the FAiTH Task Force, composed of representatives from the Department Of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), CFO, and other government agencies, with the Commission on Audit (COA) assisting the said task force in the transparency initiative;

WHEREAS, the FAiTH does not provide consolidated information on the donations to the National Government and Local Government Units, both from local and foreign sources;

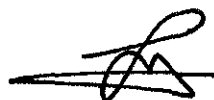
WHEREAS, Book V, Chapter 4 of Executive Order No. 292 states that the Commission on Audit is mandated to examine, audit and settle all accounts pertaining to the revenue and

pertaining to government, to promulgate accounting and auditing rules and regulations including those for the prevention and disallowances of irregular, unnecessary, extravagant or unconscionable expenditures, or uses of government funds and properties, to submit annual reports to the President and the Congress on the financial condition and operations of the government, to recommend measures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government operations, and to keep the general accounts of government and preserve the vouchers and supporting papers pertaining thereto;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Audit issued Memorandum Circular No. 2014-02 on the accounting and reporting guidelines on the receipt and utilization of National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund, cash and in-kind aids/donations from local and foreign sources, and funds allocated from the agency regular budget for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management program;

WHEREAS, there is a need to account for all the donations received from local and foreign sources to properly recognize the donors for their support and assistance to the Philippine Government in restoring services and providing protection and care for those affected by the super typhoon, "Yolanda";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE TO URGE AND FORMALLY REQUEST THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT TO CONDUCT AN AUDIT ON ALL THE DONATIONS REPORTEDLY CHANNELED TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS FOR THE REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE DESTRUCTION BROUGHT BY SUPER TYPHOON, "YOLANDA" TO DETERMINE THE ACTUAL AMOUNT RECEIVED BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AND THAT FUNDS WERE PROPERLY SPENT.



SENATOR FRANCIS "CHIZ" ESCUDERO