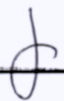


'18 AUG -6 P 4 :03

**SENATE**  
**P.S. Res 821**

RECEIVED



---

Introduced by Senator Poe

---

**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY AND TRANSPARENCY GUIDE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE AND THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS OFFICE REGARDING THE PROPOSED SHIFT TO A FEDERAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT, WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF FULFILLING THE PRECEPTS OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY AND IMPLEMENTING FULL DISCLOSURE OF ALL TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING PUBLIC INTEREST**

1           WHEREAS, Article II, Section 24 provides that "[t]he State recognizes the vital  
2 role of communication and information in nation-building";

3           WHEREAS, Article II, Section 27 mandates the States to "maintain honesty  
4 and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against  
5 graft and corruption";

6           WHEREAS, Article II, Section 28 directs the State to adopt and implement "a  
7 policy of full public disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest";

8           WHEREAS, Article III, Section 7 of the Constitution also recognizes "the right  
9 of the people to information on matters of public concern," including "[a]ccess to  
10 official records, and to documents, and papers pertaining to official acts,  
11 transactions, or decisions, as well as to government research data" which can be  
12 used as "basis for policy development...";

13           WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 1 states that "[p]ublic office is a public trust.  
14 Public officers and employees must, at all times, be accountable to the people, serve  
15 them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency; act with patriotism  
16 and justice, and lead modest lives";

1           WHEREAS, Palace Communications Assistant Secretary Esther Margaux  
2 "Mocha" Uson was tapped by Consultative Committee (Con-com) spokesperson Ding  
3 Generoso as the lead campaigner of federalism due to her strong backing of 5.6  
4 million followers on social media site Facebook;

5           WHEREAS, the Palace communications official vowed to "simplify" the  
6 explanation of federalism through social media<sup>1</sup>;

7           WHEREAS, some P90 million in public funds was allocated for the information  
8 drive;

9           WHEREAS, Uson's latest antics reek of impropriety and disrespect to the Con-  
10 com nor it helps elevate public discourse;

11           WHEREAS, the video which showcased toilet humor on a rather serious issue  
12 does not help explain federalism to the people, especially at a time when only 37%  
13 of Filipinos support the shift to a federal system of government and only one out of  
14 four Filipinos are even aware of what federalism is<sup>2</sup> while another survey indicated  
15 that 62% of Filipinos<sup>3</sup> reject a change to federalism for now;

16           WHEREAS, it is important that public office is a public trust, and officials must  
17 at all times exercise professionalism in the performance of their functions;

18           BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE  
19 PHILIPPINES, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Information and Mass media  
20 to conduct an inquiry and transparency guide, in aid of legislation, on the  
21 information campaign of the Consultative Committee and the Presidential  
22 Communications Operations Office regarding the proposed shift to a federal form of  
23 government, with the objectives of fulfilling the precepts of accountability and  
24 transparency and implementing full disclosure of all transactions involving public  
25 interest.

26           Adopted,

  
**GRACE POE**

---

<sup>1</sup> Lopez, V. 2018, August 2. "Mocha aims to use social media to explain federalism to Filipinos." GMA News online. Retrieved from <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/662774/mocha-aims-to-use-social-media-to-explain-federalism-to-filipinos/story/>

<sup>2</sup> Social Weather Stations survey conducted from March 23-27, 2018, released on June 28, 2018.

<sup>3</sup> Pulse Asia Survey conducted from June 15-21, 2018, released last July 16, 2018