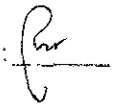


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

'11 MAY 19 P4:15

SENATE  
P.S. RES. NO. 485

RECORDED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Manny B. Villar

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA, CIVIL SERVICE AND GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE FEASIBILITY OF MANDATING ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE HANDBOOK CONTAINING INFORMATION ON THE AVAILABLE GOVERNMENT SERVICES, THEIR SCHEDULES, AND PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS WHEN DEALING WITH THESE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, BUREAUS AND OFFICES LOCATED WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION.**

**Whereas**, Section 24, Article 2 of the 1987 Constitution provides “[t]he State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation-building;”

**Whereas**, Section 7, Article 3 on bill of rights also recognizes “[t]he right of the people to information on matters of public concern shall be recognized. Access to official records, and to documents and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions, or decisions, as well as to government research data used as basis for policy development, shall be afforded the citizen, subject to such limitations as may be provided by law;”

**Whereas**, over 85 countries around the world have enacted some form of public or freedom of information legislation;

**Whereas**, the primary reason for their legislation was to require government agencies, bureaus and offices to publish and promote openness of their activities;

**Whereas**, simple but vital information which affects the day to day living of the common Filipinos are held by the government;

**Whereas**, for instance in Singapore, every district has information booklet of government services which provides procedure on Police assistance, Traffic rules, Bail procedures etc.;

**Whereas**, lack of these vital information causes ordinary citizens to fall prey in the hands of unscrupulous individuals who take advantage of the former’s ignorance of the law and government procedures;

**Whereas**, a local government handbook should contain all the information and guidelines needed for the citizens to know what to do, what the available government services they can make use of, and how to transact with the government – particularly, their schedules, procedures and requirements ;

**Whereas**, a comprehensive handbook available for public consumption will pave the way for the much needed transparency and uniformity everybody aspires for when dealing with the government;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to urge the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media, Civil Service and Government Reorganization, and Local Government to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the feasibility of mandating all local government units to provide a comprehensive handbook containing information on the available government services, their schedules, and procedures and requirements when dealing with these government agencies, *bureaus and offices located within their jurisdiction.*

**Adopted,**



Manny Villar