

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

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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 754

Introduced by **Senator Teofisto "TG" Guingona III**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS (BLUE RIBBON) TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED EXTRAVAGANT SPENDING BY THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS IN ITS PREPARATION FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE NATIONAL BILIBID PRISON

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

WHEREAS, Section 28, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that: the State adopts and implements a policy of full disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest;

WHEREAS, Section 13 (36) of the Rules of the Senate provides that: "the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations. – Seventeen (17) members. All matters relating to including investigation of, malfeasance, misfeasance and nonfeasance in office by officers and employees of the government, its branches, agencies, subdivisions and instrumentalities; implementation of the provision of the Constitution on nepotism; and, investigation of any matter of public interest on its own initiative or brought to its attention by any member of the Senate";

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) launched the "BuCor 2012 Road Map", a 10 year prison reform program;

WHEREAS, the BuCor allegedly spent almost P2 million for the launching of the said reform program and for the visit of President Benigno Aquino III on January 27, 2012. The breakdown of the P2 million are as follows: P720,000 for food for the VIPs, P576,000 for the printing of tarpaulin banners, P203,000 for the rent of a red carpet, P 450,000 for the rent of air-conditioned tent and P80,000 for the meals of other visitors and media;

WHEREAS, the government's daily food budget for every inmate is P50; the alleged amount spent for VIPs and members of the media during the event was P720,000- an amount almost enough to provide three meals to the 18,820 inmates of the state penitentiary;

WHEREAS, the cash voucher for the reimbursement of food expenses dated January 31 was signed by Corrections Director Gaudencio Pangilinan, while his personal assistant Ms. Teresa Geniston was listed as the payee even if she is not authorized to handle such amount of money because she is not an organic employee of BuCor;

WHEREAS, the alleged lavish banquet for the President's visit is an indication of spendthrift bureaucrats, inconsistent with President Aquino's 2010 campaign slogan "Daang Matuwid";

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations (BLUE RIBBON) to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the alleged extravagant spending of the Bureau of Corrections for the launching of "BuCor 2012 Road Map" and for the President's visit to the National Bilibid Prison.

Adopted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and lines, positioned above the printed name.

TEOFISTO "TG" GUINGONA III