

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES


First Regular Session



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P.S. Res 72

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO REVIEW EXISTING LAWS AND CONSIDER REPEALING DUPLICATE, IRRELEVANT AND UNNECESSARY REGULATIONS IN A BID TO STREAMLINE PROCEDURES, EASE THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS AND SUSTAIN ECONOMIC GROWTH

WHEREAS, the Philippines ranked 108th out of 189 economies in the World Bank's "Ease of Doing Business" report for 2014, posting a 25-spot jump from the previous year's ranking of 133rd.¹ The Philippines was at 144th place in 2010 and 136th place in 2011;

WHEREAS, despite improvements in the ease of doing business index in the multilateral lender's global survey, the Philippines slipped in 6 out of 10 indicators tracked by the World Bank in the 2014 survey:

Indicator	2016 Rank	2015 Rank	Change in Rank
Starting a Business	165	157	-8
Dealing with Construction Permits	99	94	-5
Getting Electricity	19	21	2
Registering Property	112	110	-2
Getting Credit	109	105	4
Protecting Investors	155	154	-1
Paying Taxes	126	122	-1
Trading Across Borders	95	94	-1
Enforcing Contracts	140	139	-1
Resolving Insolvency	53	50	-3

WHEREAS, in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region—which groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore,

¹ <http://www.doingbusiness.org/data/exploreconomies/philippines>

Thailand and Vietnam—the Philippines ranked 6th overall of the 10-nation trading bloc and 7th in the “Starting a Business” indicator in the recent study;

WHEREAS, according to the global survey, business registration in the Philippines involves an average of 16 procedures and 29 days;

WHEREAS, The Philippines’ Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) continue to lag behind other countries in the ASEAN. At USD5 Billion in 2015, FDI inflows to the Philippines are the lowest in the ASEAN region. Investors continue to cite the high cost of doing business, the lack of infrastructure, and corruption as primary reasons for not investing in the Philippines, according to the “*Philippine Economic Update: Accelerating Reforms to Meet the Jobs Challenge*” released by the World Bank’s Philippine Poverty Reduction and Economic Management in May 2013;

WHEREAS, despite the passage of Republic Act No. 9485 or the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007, much still needs to be done to effect changes and streamline procedures in the national and local levels;

WHEREAS, the economy registered a 5.8 percent growth in 2015, buoyed by the robust performance of the services and industry sector which accounted for 8.1% and 4.8% of GDP growth, respectively²;

WHEREAS, global agencies cited several reforms that have been instituted in the bureaucracy to further improve the weather climate, with the help of agencies, in particular the National Competitiveness Council;

WHEREAS, in order to sustain the momentum of economic growth, a possible review of laws and regulations may be essential to primarily cut red tape and spur job creation;

WHEREAS, Korea has cleared about 6,000 laws off its books. Cambodia has just started. Vietnam has set up a special task force to review 5,400 “administrative procedures” and has simplified 88% of those in the last three years³;

WHEREAS, in Australia, the Omnibus Repeal Day (Autumn 2014) had been introduced to reduce regulatory burden for business, individuals and the community sector with the aim to cut Aus\$1 Billion in red tape annually and repeal more than 10,000 pieces and more than 50,000 pages of legislation and regulations⁴;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Philippine Senate, that the Committee on Economic Affairs and the appropriate Senate committees be directed to review existing laws and consider repealing duplicate, irrelevant and unnecessary

² <http://www.nscb.gov.ph/sna/2015/4th2015/2015qpr4.asp>

³ <http://opinion.inquirer.net/73040/repeal-laws-and-lower-cost-of-doing-business#ixzz32swoMxAg>

⁴ <https://www.cuttingredtape.gov.au/repeal-day/2014-autumn-repeal-day>

regulations in a bid to streamline procedures, ease the cost of doing business and sustain economic growth.

Adopted,


GRACE POE