

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE }  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }  
Second Regular Session }

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SENATE  
P.S. Resolution No. 456

RECEIVED

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATION (BLUE RIBBON) TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT 6713, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES", RELATIVE TO REQUIRED SUBMISSION OF STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH OF THE INCUMBENT COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC) CHAIR ANDRES BAUTISTA

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article XI of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that:

**"Public Office is a public trust.** Public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives." (*Emphasis ours*)

WHEREAS, Section 8 of Republic Act No. 6713, otherwise known as the "*Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees*", states that:

**"Public officials and employees have an obligation to accomplish and submit declarations under oath of, and the public has the right to know, their assets, liabilities, net worth and financial and business interests** including those of their spouses and of unmarried children under eighteen (18) years of age living in their households." (*Emphasis ours*)

WHEREAS, furthermore, Section 8 of RA 6713 is instructive as to the required contents of the aforesaid Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net worth (SALN), which must be filed under oath, to wit:

- (a) real property, its improvements, acquisition costs, assessed value and current fair market value;

- (b) personal property and acquisition cost;
- (c) all other assets such as investments, cash on hand or in banks, stocks, bonds, and the like;
- (d) liabilities, and;
- (e) all business interests and financial connections;

**WHEREAS,** the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), as a Constitutional body, must not only be compliant with the laws ensuring honesty and integrity in the performance of government service, but also be above suspicion of any irregularity being the guardian of the Philippine electoral system;

**WHEREAS,** recently, new pieces of evidence were presented by a party with personal knowledge and access to the true and correct information as to the assets, liabilities and net worth of incumbent COMELEC Chair Andres Bautista as contained in the newspaper reports today, August 07, 2017;

**WHEREAS,** there is a need to determine if the present law is adequate enough to ensure compliance by all public officials with the provisions on the required submission of SALN;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Senate Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigation (Blue Ribbon) to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, into the alleged non-compliance with the provisions of Republic Act 6713, otherwise known as the "Code Of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees", relative to required submission of statement of assets, liabilities and net worth of the incumbent Commission on Elections (COMELEC) Chair Andres Bautista.

*Adopted,*

  
**VICENTE C. SOTTO III**