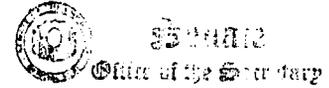


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



'18 MAY 16 P1:27

SENATE

RECEIVED

P. S. RES. NO. 735

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

RESOLUTION

URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROPER DISBURSEMENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS OFFICE (PCOO) OF ITS FUNDS FOR INFORMATION CARAVAN DURING THE COUNTRY'S ASEAN CHAIRMANSHIP IN 2017

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 4 s. 2010, mandates the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) to act as the lead communications arm of the government who is tasked to engage and involve the citizenry and the mass media in order to enrich and expand the discourse relating to governance¹

WHEREAS, in 2017, when the Philippines hosted high profile summits as the chairman of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the PCOO was given the task to spread awareness and educate Filipinos about the organization.²

WHEREAS, according to PCOO Secretary Martin Andanar, some Filipinos lack knowledge and awareness about the ASEAN so there is a need for a "reintroduction" through nationwide roadshows and information caravans.³

WHEREAS, the PCOO, through its Committee on Media Affairs and Strategic Communications (CMASC), headed by Undersecretary Noel Puyat, launched the "One ASEAN, a Global Player" information campaign which is geared towards greater awareness and understanding necessary for the building of a regional community.⁴

WHEREAS, in a May 9, 2018 news report, it was alleged that the Commission on Audit (COA) found anomalous the 2017 PCOO CMASC information caravan which was allocated with a total budget of ₱647.11 million.⁵

¹ See <https://pcoo.gov.ph/about/>

² GMA. (4 March 2017). *Andanar commits PCOO to raise ASEAN awareness among Pinoyos*. Retrieved from <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/601859/andanar-commits-pcoo-to-raise-asean-awareness-among-pinoyos/story/>

³ Ibid.

⁴ See <http://pia.gov.ph/asean/articles/1001512>

⁵ Novenario, R. (9 May 2018). *Usec ng PCOO nag-resign (P647.11 milyon hinahanap ng COA)*. Retrieved from <http://www.hatawtabloid.com/2018/05/09/usec-ng-pcoo-nag-resign-p647-11-milyon-hinahanap-ng-coa/>

WHEREAS, said news report has yet to be officially validated by the COA. Nonetheless, there is still a need for PCOO to explain publicly the disbursement of the said funds.

WHEREAS, there is an immediate need to look into the alleged irregularities in the disposition of PCOO's budget and its irregular expenditures for the aforementioned information caravan in order to ensure that government funds are legally and properly allocated, directed and spent towards the sole purpose for which the funds were allocated.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippines Senate, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee/s to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the proper disbursement of the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) of its funds for information caravan during the country's ASEAN chairmanship in 2017.

Adopted,


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator