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SENATE

P. S. RES. NO. 807

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Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S REPORTED LACK OF ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT FOR THE MASA MASID PROJECT, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING PROPER INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF TRANSPARENCY MECHANISMS IN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES AND DUE COMPLIANCE WITH ANNUAL REPORTING PROCEDURES**

1 WHEREAS, Article II, Section 28 of the Constitution states that "(s)ubject to  
2 reasonable conditions prescribed by law, the State adopts and implements a policy of  
3 full public disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest";

4 WHEREAS, Section 4 of Republic Act No. 6713, otherwise known as the Code  
5 of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, states that  
6 "...(a)ll government resources and powers of their respective offices must be employed  
7 and used efficiently, effectively, honestly and economically, particularly to avoid  
8 wastage in public funds and revenues";

9 WHEREAS, Section 5(b) of the same provides for the duty of public officials  
10 and employees to submit annual performance report, stating that "(a)ll heads or other  
11 responsible officers of offices and agencies of the government and of government-  
12 owned or controlled corporations shall, within forty-five (45) working days from the  
13 end of the year, render a performance report of the agency or office or corporation  
14 concerned. Such report shall be open and available to the public within regular office  
15 hours";

16 WHEREAS, Administrative Order No. 25, s. 2011, Creating an Inter-Agency  
17 Task Force on the Harmonization of National Government Performance Monitoring,  
18 Information and Reporting Systems, states that "performance monitoring, evaluation,

1 information and reporting are essential components of an effective and efficient  
2 performance management system”;

3 WHEREAS, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)  
4 Memorandum Circular 2016-116 on the Implementation of Mamamayang Ayaw sa  
5 Anomalya, Mamamayang Ayaw sa Ilegal na Droga (*Masa Masid*) Program, describes  
6 it as “a community-based initiative to engage volunteers in the fight against  
7 criminality, corruption and illegal drugs” through a multi-sectoral and mass-based  
8 approach;

9 WHEREAS, DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2017-112, or the Revised  
10 Guidelines on the Implementation of *Masa Masid*, provides for the institutional  
11 arrangements, monitoring and reporting mechanisms throughout different levels of  
12 the program’s implementation;

13 WHEREAS, in the Commission on Audit’s (COA) 2017 audit report, findings  
14 show that the DILG utilized the entire budget of the *Masa Masid* project despite not  
15 having yielded accomplishment reports<sup>1</sup>;

16 WHEREAS, among the issues flagged were the zero performance output seen  
17 in the *Masa Masid* feedback mechanism intended to streamline the handling of  
18 anonymous reports which had a budget of P16.942 million in 2017 and the P90.58-  
19 million budget for the Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC) regional  
20 orientations and trainings across the Philippines<sup>2</sup>;

21 WHEREAS, *Masa Masid* had a budget of more than P500 million for 2017, with  
22 COA noting that eight *Masa Masid* activities worth P145 million were not  
23 implemented, forcing the DILG to realign the budget to anti-corruption and counter-  
24 extremism training<sup>3</sup>;

25 WHEREAS, to avoid mandatory reversion to the treasury, COA disclosed that  
26 the DILG’s funding for the *Masa Masid* implementation amounting to P99.19 million  
27 was sent to different agencies last December 2017 – P50 million to the Philippine  
28 Public Safety College (PPSC) for training on counter-extremism, P38.69 million to the

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<sup>1</sup> Rappler. 8 July 2018. “Zero performance? COA flags DILG's anti-criminality projects”. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/206786-coa-dilg-anti-criminality-projects-badac>

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Roxas, Joseph Tristan. 9 July 2018. “DILG’s P500-M Masa Masid program missed objectives, COA says”. Retrieved from <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/659764/dilg-s-p500-m-masa-masid-program-missed-objectives-coa-says/story/>

1 Local Government Academy (LGA) for training on anti-corruption, and P10.5 million  
2 to the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) to implement a *Masa*  
3 *Masid* communication action plan<sup>4</sup>;

4 WHEREAS, the COA reported that no liquidation reports were submitted when  
5 the DILG transferred the funds to the 3 government agencies in the 4th quarter of  
6 2017, hence, the Commission is “concerned that the transfer of funds to  
7 aforementioned agencies in the 4th quarter and towards the end of the year was  
8 intended to avoid reversion of funds to the General Fund”<sup>5</sup>;

9 WHEREAS, the COA further noted that the MOA with the LGA failed to specify  
10 the agency's role, the timeline of implementation and the submission of progress  
11 reports, and the MOA with the PCOO and PPSC showed no requirement on the  
12 submission of liquidation expenses and accomplishment reports<sup>6</sup>;

13 WHEREAS, the DILG responded to the COA report that all 3,679 *Masa Masid*  
14 activities had been accomplished as of 28 May 2018, saying the timing of the fund  
15 transfer to implementing agencies was "an act of merely extending the period of  
16 implementation beyond the period indicated in the memorandum of agreement  
17 (MOA)"<sup>7</sup>;

18 WHEREAS, implementing agencies conduct annual planning where programs,  
19 projects and activities contributing to their respective key result areas are laid down,  
20 thus creating the basis for operations and corresponding budgetary requirements to  
21 ensure efficient programming of public resources and feasibility of plans;

22 WHEREAS, in the midst of the administration's controversial campaign against  
23 criminality and drugs, disbursement of funds for programs relating to this objective  
24 should be transparent and implementers accountable, to dispel public speculation on  
25 the lawfulness of public expenditures;

26 WHEREAS, transparency is the cornerstone of good governance and public  
27 offices have due responsibility to submit annual reports on their agency's operations

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<sup>4</sup> Rosario, Ben. 9 July 2018. “DILG slammed on transfer of funds to other agencies”. Manila Bulletin. Retrieved from <https://news.mb.com.ph/2018/07/09/dilg-slammed-on-transfer-of-funds-to-other-agencies/>

<sup>5</sup> Rappler. 8 July 2018. “COA questions DILG's last-minute P99-million fund transfer”. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/206784-coa-questions-dilg-last-minute-fund-transfer-2017>

<sup>6</sup> *Supra*, Note 3.

<sup>7</sup> *Supra*, Note 3.

1 not only for compliance with their performance incentives requirements but more  
2 importantly, to show that the people's budget was judiciously and effectively utilized;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, to direct the  
4 appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the  
5 Department of the Interior and Local Government's reported lack of accomplishment  
6 report for the *Masa Masid* project, with the end in view of ensuring proper  
7 institutionalization of transparency mechanisms in implementing agencies and due  
8 compliance with annual reporting procedures.

*Adopted,*

  
LEILA M. DE LIMA