

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines

Senate

Manila City

Nineteenth Congress

Third Regular Session



RESOLUTION NO. 237

RESOLUTION AMENDING SECTION 20 OF THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE GOVERNING INQUIRIES
IN AID OF LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, Section 19 of the Rules of Procedure Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation (Rules of Procedure) adopted by the Senate on 7 August 1987 provides that "the Committee or its Chairman may from time to time constitute and appoint subcommittees, including ad hoc or select subcommittees, composed of less than a majority of the committee members for the purpose of performing any and all acts which the Committee as a whole is authorized to do and perform, except the power to punish for contempt under Section 17 hereof";

WHEREAS, Section 20 of the current Rules of Procedure adopted on 9 August 2010 states that "The Chairman of a Committee may create subcommittees as may be deemed necessary for the purpose of performing any and all acts which the Committee as a whole is authorized to do and

perform, except the power to punish for contempt under Section 18 hereof”;

WHEREAS, Section 20 of the Rules of Procedure provides for the delegation of the Committee’s authority to subcommittees, but withholds from such delegation, the contempt power as contemplated in Section 18 of the Rules of Procedure, considering that a subcommittee may constitute less than a majority of the committee members;

WHEREAS, Congress’ contempt power has long been established and recognized in jurisprudence as inherent and essential to the legislature’s discharge of its functions, allowing Congress to perform its duties without impediment, assert its authority, and punish contumacious acts independently of the judicial branch;

WHEREAS, recently constituted subcommittees comprise the same membership as the main committee and should therefore be allowed to wield the committee’s full powers, including the power to cite and punish witnesses in contempt: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To amend Section 20 of the Rules of Procedure Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation to read as follows:

“Sec. 20. Subcommittees; Delegation of Authority. The Chairman of a Committee may create subcommittees as may be deemed necessary for the purpose of performing any and all acts which the Committee as a whole is authorized to do and perform.”

Adopted,



FRANCIS “CHIZ” G. ESCUDERO

President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on
December 18, 2024.



RENATO N. BANTUG Jr.
Secretary of the Senate

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