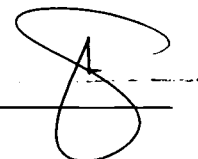


**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES**
Third Regular Session

24 NOV -6 A9:52

SENATE
P. S. Res No. 1228

REC



Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INDISCRIMINATE ISSUANCE OF BARANGAY CERTIFICATIONS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF VOTER REGISTRATION OR TRANSFER OF REGISTRATION, WHICH UNDERMINES THE INTEGRITY OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS AND CIRCUMVENTS ELECTION LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, according to Republic Act No. 8189 or The Voter's Registration Act of 1996 (RA 8189), it is the policy of the State to systematize the present method of registration in order to establish a clean, complete, permanent and updated list of voters;

WHEREAS, according to the Constitution and RA 8189 require that all citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law, who are at least 18 years old, and who shall have resided in the Philippines for at least one year, and in the place wherein they propose to vote for at least six months immediately preceding the election, may register as voter;

WHEREAS, according to RA 8189 any registered voter who has transferred residence to another city or municipality may apply for the transfer of his registration records;

WHEREAS, under Commission on Elections (COMELEC) Resolution No. 10963 promulgated on January 10, 2024, a barangay certification is one of the requirements an applicant may present as identification document as well as proof of residence;

WHEREAS, recent reports indicate an alarming trend of indiscriminate issuance of barangay certifications by certain barangays, which undermines the integrity of local governance and poses potential risks for various sectors, including electoral processes, taxation, and public service delivery;

WHEREAS, in an online news article published by BusinessMirror on October 18, 2024, entitled "*Mass migration of voters to be probed by Comelec*", COMELEC Chairman George Garcia (Chairman Garcia) said that the poll body will investigate the disturbing number of voters transferring their records to certain cities and municipalities. He revealed that the COMELEC observed an up to 40-percent increase in voter registration in certain areas. Among those places with a high influx of voter transfers were Makati City, Cagayan de Oro, and Nueva Ecija;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that initial investigation in Makati suggests many of these voters utilized barangay certifications to facilitate their transfers;

WHEREAS, in an online news article published by INQUIRER.net on October 17, 2024, entitled "*Comelec seeks probe into anomalous issuance of barangay certifications*", it was reported that according to Chairman Gracia, the use of barangay certification as proof of residence can be abused by local officials during elections. He urged the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to investigate those issuing bogus barangay certifications;

WHEREAS, in an online news article published by INQUIRER.net on October 17, 2024, entitled "*DILG to investigate bogus issuance of barangay certifications*", it was reported that in reaction to the call of Chairman Gracia, DILG Secretary Jonvic Remulla will ask DILG's undersecretary for barangay affairs to investigate concerns on barangay certifications that lead to irregular voter transfers;

WHEREAS, the indiscriminate issuance of barangay certifications as proof of residence can lead to misuse, such as ghost residents, voter fraud, and other forms of corruption that compromise the trust and efficacy of government institutions;

WHEREAS, it is important that proper protocols, including verification processes and community engagement, are instituted to ensure that barangay certifications are issued based on accurate and legitimate residency claims;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to look into this matter to safeguard the integrity of the electoral process from the loopholes or gray areas in the law which are exploited by unscrupulous individuals to undermine and make a mockery of the Philippine electoral system;

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Philippines to direct the proper Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the indiscriminate issuance of barangay certifications, for the purpose of voter registration or transfer of registration, which undermines the integrity of the electoral process and circumvents election laws, rules and regulations

Adopted,


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY