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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE

REF:

BY:

P.S.R.NO. 123

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE, WELFARE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4Ps) WITH THE END VIEW OF REVIEWING, AMENDING OR REVISING THE CURRENT POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMS AND POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) is a human development measure of the national government that provides conditional cash grants to the poorest of the poor, to improve the health, nutrition, and the education of children aged 0-18. It is patterned after the conditional cash transfer (CCT) schemes in Latin American and African countries, which have lifted millions of people around the world from poverty.¹

WHEREAS, the 4Ps has dual objectives as the flagship poverty alleviation program of the Aquino administration: (1) *social assistance*, giving monetary support to extremely poor families to respond to their immediate needs; and (2) *social development*, breaking the intergenerational poverty cycle by investing in the health and education of poor children through programs such as: (i) health check-ups for

¹ <http://www.gov.ph/programs/conditional-cash-transfer/>

pregnant women and children aged 0 to 5; (ii) deworming of schoolchildren aged 6 to 14; (iii) enrollment of children in daycare, elementary, and secondary schools; and (iv) family development sessions.ⁱⁱ

WHEREAS, complementing the 4Ps is the Modified Conditional Cash Transfer (MCCT) program, which caters to families in need of special protection. These include street families, itinerant indigenous families, families displaced by natural and man-made disasters, families with a person with disability (PWD), child laborers, children in conflict with the law, and families with members with terminal disease and victims of human trafficking.ⁱⁱⁱ

WHEREAS, the beneficiaries of the 4Ps and MCCT programs' has significantly increased since its inception. In 2010, less than 1 million beneficiaries were included in the program. However, as of August 26, 2015, there are 4,353,597 active household-beneficiaries or an increase of more than 300% compared to year 2010.

WHEREAS, the 2016 General Appropriations Act reflects a total of Php56.025 billion for the 4Ps alone. Out of this, Php18.113 billion has been spent and distributed to beneficiaries as of June 30, 2016. For the year 2017, the proposed budget for 4Ps and MCCT Program is around Php50 billion.

WHEREAS, despite the big chunk of budget that the government is allocating for the 4Ps and MCCT programs, it has not resulted to a significant decrease in poverty incidence during the Aquino Administration. It has been put forward that the dole-out program had been given to ineligible beneficiaries and a considerable amount of the funds did not reach the intended beneficiaries.

WHEREAS, some of the critics of the programs alleged that instead of using the budget for development program, the funds for 4Ps and MCCT are being used for political patronage. According to them, the incumbent local officials manipulate the flow of 4Ps and MCCT funds by adding or deleting names from the list of beneficiaries depending on who patronize them.

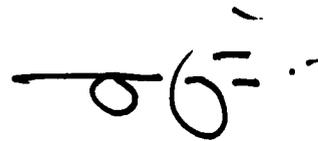
ⁱⁱ *Ibid.*

ⁱⁱⁱ *id.*

WHEREAS, considering that the government is spending money a lot of money that we borrow from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank to finance the 4Ps and MCCT Program, it is prudent to conduct a review of the 4Ps and MCCT program policies and its implementation to guarantee that the public funds are being used efficiently and for the right purpose.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the implementation and economic effects of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) with the end view of reviewing, amending or revising the current poverty alleviation programs and policies of the government.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO'. The signature is stylized with a long horizontal line extending to the left and a small mark above the 'O'.

JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO