

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1358



Introduced by Bayan Muna Reps. Teodoro A. Casiño and Satur C. Ocampo,
Gabriela Women's Party Rep. Liza L. Maza

A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND
PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF USING THE STATEMENT OF
ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH (SALN) AS A MEANS TO
ASCERTAIN THE REAL NET WORTH OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND
EMPLOYEES

Whereas, the 1987 Constitution mandates that "a public officer or employee shall, upon assumption of office and as often thereafter as may be required by law, submit a declaration under oath of his assets, liabilities and net worth";

Whereas, Section 8 of Republic Act 6713, also known as the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, expressly states that "public officials and employees have an obligation to accomplish and submit declarations under oath of, and the public has the right to know, their assets, liabilities, net worth and financial and business interests including those of their spouses and of unmarried children under eighteen (18) years of age living in their households";

Whereas, a recent report by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) on the growth of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's (GMA) declared wealth showed glaring discrepancies in the statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs) that she submitted from 1992 onwards. GMA's net worth grew from P6.73 million in 1992 to a staggering P60.07 million which is a sharp 890% increase, while her gross salary as president was only P45,000 a month. Her SALNs failed to show other lawful sources of income;

Whereas, a more recent article by VERA Files, a group of veteran investigative journalists, cited the failure of the Presidents' sons, Congressmen Juan Miguel Arroyo and Diosdado Ignacio Arroyo, to properly or accurately declare their US


properties in their SALN. This includes a \$1.32 million beachfront property in California which Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo failed to disclose in his SALN for 2007 and 2008. Said report also showed dramatic increases in the net worth of both Arroyos right after being elected to Congress, as well as a ballooning of their liabilities which may indicate how the SALN can be manipulated to conceal unexplainable wealth;

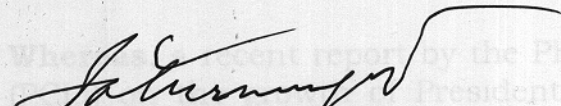
Whereas, the PCIJ and VERA Files reports only emphasize that even with a law on the SALN, public officials, including the President herself and her two congressmen sons, are not inclined to make true and detailed declarations of their assets, liabilities and net worth. Such reports emphasize further that SALNs are highly prone to distortions and, as such, cannot serve as reliable means to find evidences of graft and corrupt practices, and illegal enrichment among public officials and employees;

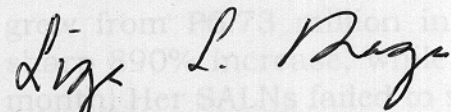
Whereas, it is high time for Congress to scrutinize the system of reporting of the SALN and to determine whether or not drafting a new law is necessary to ensure that all civil servants stick to the basic rule of utmost transparency when submitting their SALNs;

Now, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved, that the House Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the effectiveness of using the Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN) as a means to determine the real net worth of public officials and employees.

Adopted _____,


REP. TEODORO A. CASIÑO
Bayan Muna


REP. SATUR C. OCAMPO
Bayan Muna


REP. LIZA L. MAZA
Gabriela Women's Party