

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

62

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_



**Introduced by Honorable Rodante D. Marcoleta**

**RESOLUTION**

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO CONDUCT A HEARING, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NECESSITY OF RATIONALIZING THE EXISTING RULES OF THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT AS REGARDS THE PREVENTION AND DISALLOWANCE OF IRREGULAR, UNNECESSARY, EXCESSIVE, EXTRAVAGANT, OR UNCONSCIONABLE (IUEEU) EXPENDITURES, OR USES OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS AND PROPERTIES

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 (2), Article IX-D of the 1987 Constitution provides that “(t)he Commission shall have exclusive authority, subject to the limitations in this Article, to define the scope of its audit examination, establish the techniques and methods required therefor, and promulgate accounting and auditing rules and regulations, including those for the prevention and disallowance of irregular, unnecessary, excessive, extravagant, or unconscionable expenditures, or uses of government funds and properties”;

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 (1), last sentence, Article IX-D of the same Constitution also provides that “where the internal control system of the audited agencies is inadequate, the Commission may adopt such measures, including temporary or special pre-audit, as are necessary and appropriate to correct the deficiencies x x x”;

**WHEREAS**, on May 15, 2019, the Special Audits Office, Special Services Sector of the Commission on Audit wrote to the Punong Barangay of Apulid, Paniqui, Tarlac<sup>[1]</sup> alleging that they were currently conducting a confirmation of the projects funded by the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) of the lawmakers from 2007 to 2009;

**WHEREAS**, the COA’s letter did not inspire meaningful cooperation from the barangay leaders, particularly the farmers who, after 12 years, were asked detailed questions which could no longer be answered with minimum certainty due to fleeting memory. Part of the letter sent to Congress encapsulates their misgivings, if not doubt, behind the motive and necessity of said COA inquiry, viz:

<sup>[1]</sup> Letter of Ms. Pearl L. Ramos, Director IV of the Special Audits Office, Special Services Sector of the Commission on Audit dated May 15, 2019.

“x x x Atubili po ang marami dahil hindi nila alam ang layunin nito bagamat silang lahat ay nagsabi na may tinanggap silang likidong pataba mula sa Alagad noon. Ang iba naman ay natakot. Pinayuhan ko po na sagutin ito ayon sa tunay na nangyari at base sa kanilang rekoleksyon o pagkakataanda.

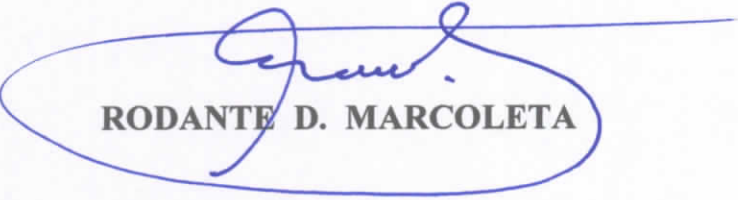
“Ano po ba ang layunin ng COA? Praktikal pa po bang paraaan na magtanong sila pagkatapos ng 12 taon na halos hindi na matandaan ang detalye bukod pa sa gulang ng mga magsasaka? Ano po ba ang pakinabang ng gobyerno dito? Hindi po kaya harrassment lang ito? Sana po maitanong ang lahat ng mga ito sa COA.”<sup>[2]</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the questions raised above are valid not only to determine the preventive character and practical value of COA’s post-audit inquiries on projects that have been completed for many years, but also to inquire on the internal control system of audited agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the case above-cited is not an isolated one considering that similar belated inquiries are still being conducted by COA in many parts of the country most of which originated from the controversial **COA Special Audit Report on PDAF and VILP (2007-2009) dated August 13, 2013** as this solely targeted the projects implemented during the term of former President/Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

**THEREFORE**, be it **RESOLVED** by the House of Representatives, as it is hereby **RESOLVED**, to direct the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability, or a joint committee, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the need to rationalize the present rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit insofar as these are applied in auditing projects that have been completed after several years, with the view of eliminating unfair, unreasonable or arbitrary mechanisms/methods and to protect substantive rights of all parties.

**ADOPTED,**

  
**RODANTE D. MARCOLETA**

<sup>[2]</sup> Part of the letter of former Brgy. Captain Marina Garcia-Gamboa to Rep. Rodante D. Marcoleta (Sagip Party-List) dated June 18, 2019 in reaction to the audit-inquiry initiated by the Special Audits Office, Special Services Sector of the Commission on audit.