


SENATE

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P. S. Res. No. 9

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9999, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2010" WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THAT FREE LEGAL AID WAS EXTENDED TO THE INTENDED BENEFICIARIES

WHEREAS, it is the declared policy of the State to protect, promote and uphold the rights of its people and help ensure that less privileged members of society have equal access to justice.

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 11 of The Constitution stipulates that "the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights."

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2010, Republic Act No. 9999, also known as the "Free Legal Assistance Act" was signed into law for the purpose of providing free legal services to the poor.

WHEREAS, under this law, the Department of Justice (DOJ) in cooperation with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) is mandated to conduct an annual Information Education and Communication Campaign (IEC) in order to inform lawyers of the guidelines in availing tax incentives as well as notify the general public that there are free legal assistance to those who cannot afford counsel.

WHEREAS, in addition to this law, the Supreme Court, under the Rule on Mandatory Legal Aid Service, mandates all practicing lawyers to render at least 60 hours of free legal services to indigent and pauper litigants annually.

WHEREAS, in order to assess the effectiveness and determine the social impact of this measure, the DOJ is required to submit an annual report to both chambers of Congress, indicating the number of parties who benefited from this law, as well as the demographics and socio-economic profile, among others, of the beneficiaries.

WHEREAS, it only necessary for the DOJ to provide a comprehensive report on the implementation of the Free Legal Assistance Act, in order to determine its effectivity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the appropriate Senate Committee be directed to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the implementation of Republic Act No. 9999, otherwise known as the "Free Legal Assistance Act of 2010".

Adopted,



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID