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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 2146



Introduced by
BAYAN MUNA Representatives CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE,
FERDINAND R. GAITE and EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
ACT TEACHERS Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,
GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
and KABATAAN Party-List Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

RESOLUTION

URGING THE HOUSE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH ITS COMMITTEES ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTS, TO JOINTLY INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE ALLEGED ANOMALOUS TRANSACTIONS IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SOCIAL AMELIORATION PROGRAM (SAP) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, on July 3, 2021,¹ Senator Emmanuel “Manny” Pacquiao claimed that questionable transactions attended the distribution of the Social Amelioration Program (SAP). Among others, he claimed that only 500,000 SAP-beneficiaries received the aid through Starpay, an e-wallet application contrary to the DSWD report that it completed its payout to 1.8 million beneficiaries. According to him, failure to download the online application deprived around 1.3 million beneficiaries the needed aid that they supposedly receive amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the P14 billion total budget, around P10.4 billion is allegedly missing;

WHEREAS, several quarters also questioned the contract entered by the DSWD with Starpay Corporation, whose starting capital is allegedly only P62,000, to facilitate the payout of social amelioration program to 1.8 million Filipinos;

WHEREAS, according to 2020 DSWD annual audit report released by the Commission on Audit (COA), of the total P47,987,981,030 SAP fund transfers to financial service providers (FSPs), the DSWD channeled **P33,210,630,470** or **69.21%** to Starpay Corporation;

WHEREAS, on the contrary, DSWD channeled only 0.01% to 11.48% of the total funds to other five (5) more established FSPs namely G-Xchange, Inc., PayMaya Philippines, Inc., Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation, Robinsons Bank Corporation and Union Bank of the Philippines;

¹ Inquirer [Inquirer.net]. (2021, July 3). Pacquiao says lockdown “ayuda” marred by corruption [Video]. YouTube. <https://youtu.be/l-hpAaKBItS>

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2 **WHEREAS**, the COA reported that there are 135 out of the sample size of 6,761 identified SAP
3 beneficiaries who have not received the second tranche benefits totaling to P920,000 but was tagged
4 as “paid” in the database. COA further noted that this is due to poor implementation on the
5 supplemental guideline of the memorandum of agreement between the DSWD and the FSPs. Upon
6 verification with intended beneficiaries, thirty-five (35) of them changed their cellphone numbers
7 while the other 100 claimed that they have same cellphone numbers;

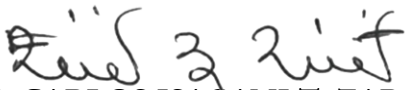
8
9 **WHEREAS**, the COA revealed that the agency failed to post the complete list of SAP beneficiaries
10 paid through FSPs and special disbursing officer payout on the agency’s live monitoring and DSWD
11 official website, which raise the possibility of double payment of the Emergency Subsidy Program
12 (ESP) to same beneficiaries;

13
14 **WHEREAS**, the Duterte administration is criticized for its slow delivery of aid to the 18 million
15 Filipino people as mandated by Republic Act No. 11469, otherwise known as Bayanihan to Heal as
16 One Act. Worse, the DSWD only targeted 14.3 million families for the delivery of the second
17 tranche of SAP contrary to what is mandated under the law;

18
19 **WHEREAS**, alleged questionable transactions and corrupt practices in the government should be
20 investigated and punish the unscrupulous individuals that waste the people’s money for their selfish
21 interests. Especially amid the worsening crisis aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, public
22 resources should be used according to the needs and interest of the Filipino people in the most
23 transparent and accountable way as possible.

24
25 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House of the Representatives, through its
26 Committees on Good Government and Public Accountability and Public Accounts, to jointly
27 investigate, in aid of legislation, the alleged anomalous transactions in the distribution of the Social
28 Amelioration Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

29
30 Adopted,



REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE

Bayan Muna Partylist




REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist



REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist



REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Partylist



REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIELA Women’s Party



REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Partylist