

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

JOINT RESOLUTION No. 04

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Introduced by Representatives RAMON V. A. "RAV" ROCAMORA, CARMELO B. LAZATIN II,
TOMASITO S. VILLARIN, TEDDY BRAWNER BAGUILAT JR.*

RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT RODRIGO R. DUTERTE TO CONTINUE THE BOTTOM-UP BUDGETING (BUB) ALLOTMENTS IN THE PROPOSED 2017 NATIONAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION IN BUDGET PROCESSES AND LAY THE GROUND FOR CHANGING PEOPLE'S MINDSET AND STRONGER LOCAL GOVERNANCE PRACTICES AND INSTITUTIONS TOWARDS FEDERALISM

Whereas, a basic tenet of a thriving and dynamic democracy is active citizenship in governance affairs;

Whereas, for federalism to succeed, local institutions including citizens' organized sectoral groups must be strengthened;

Whereas, the State recognizes and respects the role of civil society organizations to participate effectively at all levels of social, political, and economic decision-making in pursuing and protecting, "within the democratic framework, their legitimate and collective interests and aspirations through peaceful and lawful means," as provided in Sections 15 and 16, Article 13 of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines;

Whereas, the immediate past General Appropriations Act (GAA) incorporated funds to implement what is known as "Bottom-Up Budgeting (BUB)" that gradually increased its coverage to include all cities and municipalities by 2017;

Whereas, the whole idea behind BUB is to encourage people's sectoral organizations to actively engage their local governments in determining how public funds should be spent, Add value to civil society organizations' (CSO) participation in development planning at the local level, and break the patronage system by giving local governments direct access to funds for their projects ;

Whereas, a rigorous process has to be undertaken for accessing BUB funds – a CSO assembly and election of CSO representatives and CSO Co-Chair of the Local Poverty Reduction Action Team, discussion of the local government's Local Poverty Reduction Action Plan (LPRAP), seeing where a proposed BUB project fits in the entire LPRAP, getting the LPRAP and the BUB project processed and validated by the Regional Poverty Reduction Action Team, ensuring that the recipient LGU is compliant with good governance requirements, among others;

Whereas, at the onset, there were implementation issues with regard to BUB among which are: limited participation of civil society organizations due to lack of time, resources and skepticism toward sitting local executives; lack of appreciation of the whole program not

just among local executives but partner implementing agencies as well; limited menu of projects that will answer the needs of communities;

Whereas, subsequent Joint Memorandum Circulars that were issued by agencies involved in the BUB are improvements in terms of processes, implementation and menu of projects;

Whereas, the BUB process for the 2017 GAA started as early as September 2015 where all municipalities and cities went through the process of CSO assemblies, project identification and vetting up to the RPRAT level;

Whereas, a total of 13,634 projects amounting to P38 billion is being proposed under BUB 2017 of which P35 billion will be funded by the National Government and about P3 billion funded by LGUs as their local counterpart;

Whereas, the new Department of Budget and Management Secretary Benjamin Diokno announced that BUB will be trimmed down and may possibly be scrapped rendering all efforts to improve the program and put it all together for 2017 to naught;

Whereas, all the targeted goals that BUB wishes to achieve, i.e. stronger and autonomous local governments supported by informed and active citizen groups, participatory governance mechanisms, greater accountability of public officials that will contribute to building strong institutions for a federal form of government will be hampered by a trimmed or scrapped BUB;

Now Therefore,


It is hereby resolved, that the House of Representatives urges President Rodrigo R. Duterte to continue the Bottom-Up Budgeting (BUB) allotments in the proposed 2017 National Government Budget and beyond in order to strengthen citizens' participation in budget processes and lay the ground for changing people's mindset and stronger local governance practices and institutions towards federalism;

Adopted


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