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

17th Congress Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1395



Introduced by

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT, PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE CONSTITUTIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines states that "[p]ublic office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives;"

WHEREAS, the Office of the Ombudsman was created under the 1987 Constitution, to act as an independent body to serve as protectors of the people against the inept, abusive and corrupt in government, with the power to "investigate on its own, or on complaint by any person, any act or omission of any public official, employee, office or agency, when such act or omission appears to be illegal, unjust, improper, or inefficient;"

WHEREAS, "the framers of the Constitution intended that these independent bodies be insulated from political pressure to the extent that the absence of independence would result in the impairment of their core functions" to shield it "from the pressures and influence of officialdom and partisan politics and from fear of external reprisal;"

WHEREAS, even the Supreme Court has previously stated that it has maintained a policy of noninterference with the "virtually unlimited investigatory and prosecutorial powers granted by the Constitution and by law to the Ombudsman;"

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives to express support to preserve and protect the constitutional independence and integrity of the Office of the Ombudsman.

Adopted,

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