

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 262



Introduced by Rep. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento

A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGATIONS OF ELECTORAL FRAUD, SPECIFICALLY, THE USE OF FALSE ADDRESSES OF REGISTERED VOTERS

WHEREAS, during the May 2019 elections in Pagsanghan, Samar, hundreds of individuals registered on Brgy. Buenos Aires, Pagsanghan, Samar, for a period of six (6) months immediately preceding the election showing no other proof of their identification other than alleged affidavits executed by the Punong Barangay and Secretary. This is evidenced by numerous cases filed and decided against them;

WHEREAS, long-time residents of Brgy. Buenos Aires, Pagsanghan, Samar, disputed that these individuals are residents of their barangay. These statements are also indicated in the cases filed for the exclusion of these individuals from the list of voters of the barangay;

WHEREAS, the right to suffrage has long been recognized as fundamental in our democratic country. It is a tool that places each one of us in equal footing with each other, no matter what our standing is in society. Our vote is what we wield to shift the balance of power to favor the majority. This right is enshrined by no less than our Constitution;

WHEREAS, the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, and Republic Act No. 8189 provide that the voter must have resided in the place wherein they propose to vote for at least six (6) months immediately preceding the election;

WHEREAS, COMELEC Resolution No. 10549, Sec. 11, states that in the absence of any valid identification documents, the applicant may be identified under oath by any registered voter of the precinct where he/she intends to be registered, provided that the registered voter shall not be allowed to identify more than three (3) applicants;

WHEREAS, to fully serve its purpose, the right to vote must have to be exercised properly, in a process that is insulated from electoral fraud;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) is the constitutional commission tasked to enforce all laws and regulations relative to the conduct of elections in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, to prevent electoral fraud and to ensure that the voters are truly residents of the area where they are registered in, it is imperative that we must review the current laws and regulations of the COMELEC that address voter registration and verification, and identify gaps in its implementation. Following this, the COMELEC must implement well founded measures to validate its voter's list and strengthen its registration process;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives thru the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the allegations of electoral fraud, specifically on the use of false addresses of registered voters, and the regulations implemented by the COMELEC relative to voter registration in order to strengthen the laws and regulations against electoral fraud.



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