A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, CALLING UPON ALL THE MAJOR BROADCASTING COMPANIES IN THE PHILIPPINES WITH PHILIPPINE DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS (PDRS) ISSUED TO FOREIGNERS TO SUBMIT COPIES OF THEIR PDRS AND TO SHED LIGHT ON THE LEGALITY OF PDRS ISSUED TO NON-FILIPINOS BY THEM

WHEREAS, in the joint hearing of the Committee on Legislative Franchises and the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability on 15 June 2020 on the ABS-CBN’S franchise, one of the issues raised was “Whether or not ABS-CBN violated the Constitution requiring 100% Filipino ownership and management of mass media: that ABS-CBN sold Philippine Depository Receipts to foreigners which allegedly allowed non-Filipinos to own ABS-CBN”;

WHEREAS, this representation in the said hearing manifested the necessity of investigating also the particulars on the issuance of PDRs to non-Filipinos by the other major broadcasting companies in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, in the interest of equity, equality and fairness, it is but proper that the other broadcasting companies’ issuance of PDRs to non-Filipinos be also looked into;

WHEREAS, broadcasting companies here in the Philippines really must observe the all-Filipino rule for mass media in the 1987 Constitution as provided in Section 11, Article XVI, which provides, as follows, “(1) The ownership and management of mass media shall be limited to citizens of the Philippines, or to corporations, cooperatives or associations, wholly-owned and managed by such citizens.”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the appropriate committee/s conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, calling upon all the major broadcasting companies in the Philippines with Philippine Depositary Receipts issued to foreigners to submit copies of their PDRs and to shed light on the legality of PDRs issued to non-Filipinos by them.

Adopted,

MICAELA S. VIOLAGO