



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 713



Introduced by HONORABLE DEOGRACIAS VICTOR "DV" B. SAVELLANO

RESOLUTION
URGING ALL NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO CONDUCT
CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS AS A MANDATORY PROCEDURE IN
PREPARING THEIR PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGETS

WHEREAS, the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 recognizes the need to address the lingering problem of stark inequality in the level of development of various regions in the country;

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution¹ mandates that Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that reduce social, economic, and political inequalities by equitably diffusing wealth;

WHEREAS, the national budget is an effective policy tool by which Congress can promote equity in regional development by directing funds to support underdeveloped regions or areas lagging in development;

WHEREAS, Section 24, Article VI of the 1987 Constitution prescribes that appropriation bills must originate exclusively in the House of Representatives, recognizing that the district representatives are "closer to the pulse of the people"² and more knowledgeable about the needs of their constituents, and it is their duty to insure that the demands of their constituents are considered in the budget;

WHEREAS, the involvement of Congress in the formulation of the proposed national budget is severely limited, mainly in terms of optional participation of the Members of the House of Representatives as members of the Regional Development Council (RDC) Advisory Committee pursuant to Section 8 of Executive Order No. 325, s.1996;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court decision on *Greco Antonious Beda B. Belgica v. Hon. Executive Secretary Paquito N. Ochoa*, qualifies that Congress' law making role necessarily comes to an end upon the approval and passage of the General Appropriations Act (GAA), hence, prohibiting Congressional involvement in budget execution, except oversight; but not preventing Congress from exercising its power of appropriation by way of specifying project or activity in the formulation and enactment of the GAA;

¹ Article XIII, Section 1. The Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the common good.

² Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J. (2009), *The 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines: A Commentary*. Rex Bookstore

WHEREAS, there is a need to provide for a responsive forum that will ensure meaningful participation and support of Members of the House of Representatives to create a more formal linkage between local and national planning chains, though fully respecting executive autonomy.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS HEREBY RESOLVED by the House of Representatives, to accordingly urge:

- (1) All regional offices of national government agencies to conduct consultations with key stakeholders of congressional districts, including their elected representatives in Congress, during the preparation of their proposed annual budgets;
- (2) The President to make the elected district representatives as automatic members of the RDC Advisory Committee, and assume the duties of advising, assisting, and supporting the council during its review and endorsement of regional budget proposals of government agencies;
- (3) All National Government Agencies (NGAs) to conduct technical briefings with Members of the House of Representatives where they can report on the status of last and current budget year's priority programs, activities and projects (PAPs), and the priority PAPs endorsed for the coming fiscal year; and
- (4) That programs, activities and projects of all NGAs and their corresponding output or performance indicators in the National Expenditure Program (NEP), wherever applicable should provide a breakdown by regions.


DEOGRACIAS VICTOR "DV" B. SAVELLANO
Deputy Speaker