Senator Angara: An executive order can take the place of FOI law

ROUCHELLE R. DINGLASAN, GMA News  February 2, 2013 5:04pm

Since the Freedom of Information bill has a "very slim" chance of being passed in Congress, Senator Edgardo Angara on Saturday said President Benigno Aquino III could issue an executive order as an alternative.

"[The chances of FOI to be passed is] very slim. There’s only five working days left before adjournment. As you know, the Senate always passes that but [it is] harder to pass in the other House," Angara said on Saturday.

"We don’t have a need for a [freedom of information] law… of course, a law is a legal framework when we encounter some obstacles, but an executive order [may be okay]," Angara told reporters at the press conference of the recently concluded meeting of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC).

Angara was elected as the first Asian chairman of the GOPAC at the meeting held in Pasay City in southern Metro Manila.

The FOI bill seeks to promote transparency in government transactions, by making public documents and contracts accessible to the public.

In the 14th Congress, the FOI bill was stalled after the House failed to vote on the bicameral conference committee report due to lack of quorum.

Last Thursday, the measure finally moved to the plenary session at the House after the Senate unanimously passed its counter-part bill last December.

Review anti-corruption laws

Meanwhile, Angara reiterated that the country should audit its anti-corruption measures as required by the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), which the Philippine Senate ratified in 2006.

The call was likewise highlighted in GOPAC’s “Manila Declaration.”

“Commit to an annual local review of the UNCAC and ensure the results thereof are recognized and shared with the citizenry in an open and transparent manner,” the Manila Declaration said.

Meanwhile, Angara said: “[An] effective campaign [against corruption] can begin with the simplest: an audit of outdated laws, rules and regulations and their repeal. Such a regulatory audit will uproot a rampant source of corruption.”

Earlier in the conference, Huguette Labelle, chairperson of Transparency International, noted that anti-corruption oversight should be intensified in the areas of political campaign finances, infrastructure, natural resources, and defense.
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CORRUPTION MUST BE STOP, PASS THE FOI BILL., PROSECUTE THE CORRUPTORS. Wala kasing mabigat nga naman ang bill na to. Pwede nga siguro if we take it one step at a time. Start muna tau sa regulatory Audit sabi nga ni Senator Ed..

ASA ka pa Sen Angara, can't you see Pnoy does not want that FOI bill before elections. So why expect he would make an EO

All talk but no quick action. Just pass the damn bill, damn it!
Where is the Catholic Church when you need them?
Anyone out there please identify those people in congress who are against any sort of anti-corruption laws like FOI Bill and have their names published to be targeted in a shame campaign by the public

Passing the FOI from lower house to the senate is like GINIGISA SILA SA SARILI NILANG MANTIKA d h k k l kh litik
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