

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 1281

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Introduced by **Senator Biazon**

RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE FOR THE SUSPENSION OF
THE RESUMPTION OF THE PEACE TALKS WITH THE MORO
ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF)

Whereas, On August 12, 2009, a bloody encounter occurred between elements of the Philippine Marine Corps of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG);

Whereas, This incident resulted in the death of twenty-three (23) soldiers including 2 commissioned officers and the wounding of 14 marines;

Whereas, Earlier, there was a declaration of Suspension of Military Operation (SOMO) by the AFP that was responded to by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) through its Suspension of Military Action (SOMA);

Whereas, These two declarations by both sides have been made as a confidence-building measure prior to the resumption of the stalled peace talks between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the MILF;

Whereas, This confidence-building measure was the basis for an agreement where the AFP or police need to coordinate with the MILF the troop movements of the AFP and PNP when the troops are moving through "MILF-controlled areas" even if the troops are conducting operations against bandits and terrorists;

Whereas, There was an admission by MGen. Benjamin Dolorfino of the Western Command that the movement of the group of marines that was ambushed last August 12 was coordinated with the MILF;


Whereas, These two conditions may have lulled the troops into complacency that they were out to fight the Abu Sayyaf and not the MILF;

Whereas, Eid Kabalu, spokesperson of the MILF admitted that MILF troops were the ones who conducted the ambush on the group of marines last August 12, an act that if indeed proven to be true speaks of treachery and insincerity on the part of the MILF as far as the peace process is concerned;

Whereas, Due to this recent development, there is a need to review and re-evaluate preliminary agreements prior to a resumption of the peace talks with the MILF; *Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, As It Is Hereby Resolved,*

By The Senate, To Express The Sense Of The Senate For The Suspension Of The Resumption Of The Peace Talks With The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Adopted,


RODOLFO G. BIAZON
Senator