

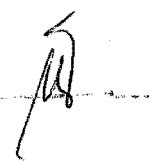
FOURTEENTH CONGRESS)
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JAN 11 12:49

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 1533 RECEIVED BY



INTRODUCED BY THE HONORABLE SENATOR MAR ROXAS

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE SOURCING OF HIGH-POWERED FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION SUPPOSEDLY PROCURED BY THE AMPATUAN CLAN, INCLUDING 40 BUSHMASTER ASSAULT RIFLES THAT DISAPPEARED FROM THE ARMORY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE IN 2007, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROPOSING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES THAT WOULD STRENGTHEN PUBLIC SAFETY REGULATIONS IN RELATION TO THE PROCUREMENT OF HIGH-POWERED FIREARMS.

WHEREAS, around two weeks after the Maguindanao Massacre, on 04 December 2009, news agencies reported that members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) unearthed a cache of firearms and ammunition buried in a vacant lot around 500 meters away from the Ampatuan family compound in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao;

WHEREAS, news reports also revealed that on 06 December 2009, combined forces of the PNP and AFP raided a ranch owned by former Maguindanao Governor Andal Ampatuan Sr. and discovered 39 assorted, high-powered firearms that included 2 M60 light machineguns, M16 rifles, a grenade launcher, a .50-caliber machinegun and several rounds of ammunition;

WHEREAS, succeeding raids on other Ampatuan residences and properties have yielded more high-powered firearms that included assault rifles, M60 and .50-caliber machineguns, M16 and M14 rifles, and hundreds of rounds of ammunition of different calibers;

WHEREAS, a news article quoted Lt. General Raymundo Ferrer of the AFP Eastern Mindanao Command as saying that they have recovered more than 1,500 assorted long and short firearms and about 500,000 bullets for various calibers;

WHEREAS, it was discovered that most of the firearms that were recovered from the Ampatuan properties had government arsenal markings and that majority of the ammunition recovered had "Armscorp" and "DND" (Department of National Defense) markings, showing that these weapons were sourced through and from government;

WHEREAS, a Philippine Daily Inquirer news article dated 16 December 2009 reported on how Crisostomo "Cris" Aquino, a government-accredited arms dealer until November 2008, sold a number of high-powered Bushmaster assault rifles to the Ampatuans for cash and how the acquisition of weapons had trappings of legitimacy;

WHEREAS, according to the same Inquirer article, police sources had said that the unearthed stockpile of the Ampatuans was so big that the United States Department of Homeland Security allegedly asked that it be "enlightened" by Malacañang;

WHEREAS, the same news article likewise mentioned that 40 Bushmaster assault rifles procured through Aquino were declared missing from the Camp Crame warehouse, and that, according to Aquino, his "last deal" with the Maguindanao Provincial Government under Ampatuan Sr. was for the same set of missing rifles;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent and compelling need to delve into how the Ampatuans were able to amass so large an arms cache, how these high-powered firearms and numerous rounds of ammunitions were sourced, purportedly through transactions involving PNP and DND officials;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate directs the appropriate Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the sourcing of high-powered firearms and ammunition supposedly procured by the Ampatuan Clan, including 40 Bushmaster assault rifles that disappeared from the armory of the Philippine National Police in 2007, with the end in view of proposing legislative measures that would strengthen public safety regulations in relation to the procurement of high-powered firearms.

Adopted,


MAR ROXAS
Senator