

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 424

RECEIVED BY: ji

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NEED TO
INTENSIFY ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUGS OPERATIONS AT THE LEVEL OF THE
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 27 states, "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* website, in an article entitled "38 Cops handling drug cases fired for skipping court hearings" posted last 25 November 2013 that 38 policemen handling drug cases were dismissed from service, while over 350 others were slapped with administrative charges following their alleged failure to attend court proceedings of the cases;

WHEREAS, Police Senior Superintendent Bartolome Tobias, Philippine National Police (PNP)-Anti Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force chief, reportedly said that of the 392 police officers charged with administrative cases, 38 have been dismissed, while six others were suspended, based on records from the monitoring system from 2006 to March 2013;

WHEREAS, Tobias reportedly said that the courts are now furnishing the PNP the orders where illegal drug cases have been dismissed for failure of police

witnesses to attend court hearings; these court orders are reportedly more than enough evidence to conduct pre-charge evaluation against the PNP witnesses for serious neglect of duty;

WHEREAS, the records further indicated that 159 personnel were allegedly either separated from the service, dropped from the rolls, retired or have been marked AWOL during the pendency of the drug cases and sixty nine others were still under pre-charge or summary hearing proceedings;

WHEREAS, Supt. Tobias reportedly said that despite their continuing directive, there are still some police officers who continuously defy their stern warning, to the prejudice of efforts in combating illegal drugs; Tobias reportedly stressed the importance of the testimony of police witnesses in the prosecution of illegal drug cases;

WHEREAS, he said the immediate superior of these police witnesses who failed to appear in court can also be held liable pursuant to Republic Act No. 9165, in addition to administrative charges;

WHEREAS, the commendable efforts of the PNP to eliminate irresponsible and negligent police officers should not go unnoticed by the State, and that Congress, in coordination with the proper government agencies should create stricter laws and guidelines to ensure the attendance of police officers who file drug-related cases in court;

WHEREAS, the National Police Commission, in cooperation with various agencies, should also craft better guidelines to ensure that drug-related cases filed in court are not done to harass individuals in order to extort money from them;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported need to intensify anti-illegal drugs operations at the level of the Philippine National Police.

Adopted,

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Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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