

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. 462

RECEIVED BY: jc

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEWS REPORT THAT 113 ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES PERSONNEL TESTED POSITIVE FOR ILLEGAL DRUGS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 3 states that "Civilian authority is, at all times, supreme over the military. The Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the State. Its goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory";

WHEREAS, under Republic Act No. 9165, also known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, Section 2 provides that "It is the policy of the State to safeguard the integrity of its territory and the well-being of its citizenry particularly the youth, from the harmful effects of dangerous drugs on their physical and mental well-being, and to defend the same against acts or omissions detrimental to their development and preservation. In view of the foregoing, the State needs to enhance further the efficacy of the law against dangerous drugs, it being one of today's more serious social ills";

WHEREAS, an Associated Press online article dated 21 January 2014 reported that the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said that more than 100 Philippine troops tested positive for illegal drugs during random testing last year;

WHEREAS, it was reported that, according to AFP spokesman Lt. Col. Ramon Zagala, 113 mostly young and low-ranking personnel tested positive during a drug testing involving 20,000 troops in the 120,000-strong armed forces, and that they could be discharged from service if follow-up tests and an investigation confirm the initial findings;

WHEREAS, the news report said that the AFP statement did not say if the findings marked an increase in the number of drug users in the military, but that the army and navy, particularly the marines, have consistently registered the most number of personnel who tested positive for illegal drug use in past years;

WHEREAS, there is a need for the Senate and concerned government agencies to look into the actions taken by the AFP to ensure the safety of the citizenry, secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory and to promote the physical and mental well-being of our soldiers;

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 news report that 113 Armed Forces of the Philippines personnel tested positive for illegal drugs.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
as: MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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