

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

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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 578

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT  
AN INQUIRY, *IN AID OF LEGISLATION*, INTO THE NEED TO ADOPT  
MEASURES TO ENSURE THE PERSONAL SECURITY AND PROTECTION OF  
MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY**

**WHEREAS**, on February 28, 2014, Regional Trial Court Judge Reynerio Estacio of Zamboanga City sustained gunshot wounds inflicted by a lone motorcycle-running gunman leading to his untimely demise;

**WHEREAS**, the murder of Judge Estacio is not an isolated incident and there has been a string of murders committed against lawyers and judges all over the country;

**WHEREAS**, a judge or justice inevitably faces threats to his/her safety and security because of the negative sentiments that may be nurtured by parties who receive unfavorable rulings in their cases;

**WHEREAS**, Supreme Court Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno mentioned during press briefings that there is a need to strengthen the judiciary's investigative or law enforcement capacities in order to sufficiently protect judges;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to determine whether the judiciary is sufficiently empowered to train judges and/or justices on security practices;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to determine whether the judiciary requires the establishment of stricter security measures, investigative mechanisms or law enforcement coordination systems to ensure the resolution of criminal investigations as well as the delivery of justice for criminal activities committed against members of the bench because of the latter's acts done in the performance of their duties;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to protect members of the judiciary in order to ensure their impartiality when hearing and deciding cases filed and brought before their courts thereby upholding the ideals of justice and fairness;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to study potential legislative measures that may promote the protection, security and safety of members of the judiciary, particularly judges and justices;

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, as it is hereby resolved to direct the appropriate Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the need to adopt measures to ensure the personal security and protection of members of the judiciary.

*Adopted,*



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID  
*Senator*