

SENATE

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P.S. Res. No. 1576

SECRETARY: *JSV*

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO INQUIRE, LOOK INTO, AND INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE DELAY IN THE ISSUANCE OF THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9049, AND TO REVISIT THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY THE NECESSARY AMENDMENTS TO AFFORD THE AWARDEES OF THE MEDAL OF VALOR THE PROPER RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT DUE THEM

WHEREAS, the Medal of Valor is the highest award that may be given to a Filipino soldier in recognition of his/her conspicuous act of gallantry above and beyond the call of duty and in total disregard of his/her personal safety;

WHEREAS, on 22-March-2001, Republic Act No. 9049 entitled, "An Act Granting Monthly Gratuity and Privileges to an Awardee of the Medal of Valor, Providing Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes" was enacted into law to provide due recognition to the awardees from a grateful government and people;

WHEREAS, R.A. No. 9049 provides awardees adequate social services and financial rewards in recognition of their exceptional bravery. The rewards provided under the law also serves to encourage men and women in the military to perform heroic deeds for their country;

WHEREAS, many of the awardees however claim that they do not enjoy the full benefits of the law. In an article by the Philippine Daily Inquirer entitled, "*AFP heroes await full benefits under law*", Medal of Valor awardees asserted that they are not enjoying the full benefits of R.A. No. 9049 because of lack of awareness with regard to the provisions of the law;

WHEREAS, in the same article, awardees pointed out that due to lack of awareness, many recipients of the medal and their dependents have had to bring a copy of the law, their Valor

citations and their birth certificates with them to prove they are entitled to the privileges stated in the law;

WHEREAS, this humiliating situation, and the diminished repute of RA No. 9049, may have been avoided if the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the law were issued by the agencies involved in the effective implementation of the Act. The IRR would have provided the guidelines, as well as informed, the concerned agencies the proper implementation of what is stated in the law;

WHEREAS, there is a need to find out the reasons behind the blatant delay, if not inaction, of the different government agencies involved in the crafting of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R. A. No. 9049 which undermined the purpose of the law in recognizing the sacrifices made by the awardees;

WHEREAS, the awardees, in addition, are proposing that the monthly gratuity pay they are receiving in the amount of Twenty thousand pesos (Php 20,000) be increased. Sec. 2. of RA No. 9049 provides that adjustments to the lifetime monthly gratuity pay may be done in consideration of applicable economic and social factors such as the inflation rate, and that such adjustments may be done within three (3) years following the effectivity of this Act and no oftener than once every five (5) years;


WHEREAS, it is hoped that by revisiting the gratuities provided for in the law, we may awaken the nationalist consciousness in the hearts and minds of the brave men and women in the military who risk their lives daily so that we may live with peace of mind;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for the appropriate Committee/s to investigate the delay in the issuance of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA No. 9049 which undermines the effective implementation of the provisions of the law, and to revisit the said law in order to identify the necessary amendments to afford the awardees of Medal of Valor the appropriate support that they need;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED to direct the appropriate Committee/s to inquire, look into, and investigate the delay in the issuance of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9049, and to revisit the provisions of the

law in order to identify the necessary amendments to afford the awardees of the Medal of Valor the proper recognition and support due them.

Adopted,



ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator