

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

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RECEIVED BY:

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 369

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED CRASHES OF UH-1D COMBAT HELICOPTERS FROM THE ALLEGED ANOMALOUS P1.25 BILLION PROCUREMENT MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (DND) UNDER THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WITH END VIEW OF CRAFTING MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND ENSURE THE ACQUISITION OF MODERN MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR THE AFP

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 3019 (Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act), Section 1 states: *"It is the policy of the Philippine Government, in line with the principle that a public office is a public trust, to repress certain acts of public officers and private persons alike which constitute graft or corrupt practices or which may lead thereto;*

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10349 (Revised AFP Modernization Act) was enacted to continue modernizing all the branches of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to effectively and fully perform its mandate to uphold the sovereignty and preserve the patrimony of the country;

WHEREAS, in line with the AFP Modernization Program, in December 2013 the Department of National Defense (DND) purchased twenty-one (21) units of refurbished UH-1 helicopters, to be delivered within a 180-day period from notice by the Joint Venture of Rice Aircraft Services Inc. (RASI) and Eagle Copters, Ltd.;

WHEREAS, during the 16th Congress, I filed Senate Resolution No. 1238 for the Senate to investigate, in aid of legislation, the allegations of irregularity and

corruption surrounding the procurement of the twenty-one (21) UH-1 combat helicopters by the DND;

WHEREAS, it was alleged that the contract for the purchase of the Huey helicopters was a "supplier-friendly" deal and "tailor-fitted" for a favored bidder, because the delivered UH-1 was non-complaint with the project's Terms of Reference (TOR) and carry some defects which render the helicopters not safe for use;

WHEREAS, during the pendency of the aforementioned Senate investigation, the subject contract was terminated on March 25, 2015 with only eight (8) units delivered and accepted by the Philippine Air Force out of twenty-one (21) units;

WHEREAS, it was alleged that notwithstanding the termination of the contract and allegations that the air assets are not airworthy, DND and AFP continued the procurement and accepted the remaining thirteen (13) refurbished choppers from RASI;

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2015, UH-1D Huey helicopter crashed in Malapatan, Sarangani province while conducting a mission to evacuate injured soldiers, wounding nine (9) pilots, crew and soldiers¹;

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2017, another Philippine Air Force (PAF) UH-1D helicopter with tail number 469 from the 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing positioned at Mactan-Benito Ebuen Air Base, crashed in Sitio Hilltop, Barangay Sampaloc, Tanay, Rizal, while conducting air to ground and disaster rescue operation training, and killing Capt. Christian Paul Litan the Pilot-in-Command (PIC) and the two crew members, Staff Sgt. Byron Tolosa and A1C Joseph De Leon and injuring 1Lt. Ceazar Rinas²;

WHEREAS, our Air force men and military men in general deserve better than the ancient and antiquated aircrafts procured by the past administration;

WHEREAS, there is a need to scrutinize the supply contracts of our air assets, navy and army weapons and equipment, not only to preserve the integrity of the entire AFP Modernization Program but also to preserve the lives of our military men;

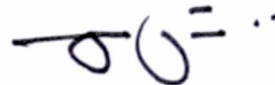
WHEREAS, considering the onerous mandate of the AFP of securing the national territory from all forms of intrusions and encroachment, there is a need to ensure that adequate measure is in place to guarantee that our military

¹ <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/737778/air-force-chopper-crash-lands-in-sarangani-9-hurt>

² <http://cnnphilippines.com/news/2017/05/04/Tanay-chopper-crash-AFP.html>

personnel acquire modern equipment to improve their capabilities to fulfill their constitutional mandate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the proper senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported crashes of UH-1D combat helicopters from the alleged anomalous P1.25 billion procurement made by the Department of National Defense (DND) under the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Modernization Program with end view of crafting measures to enhance the procurement process and ensure the acquisition of modern military equipment for the AFP.



JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO