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

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SENATE

P. S. RES. NO. 370

Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE RECENT BOMBINGS IN METRO MANILA, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF INSTITUTING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO HEIGHTEN THE CAPACITY OF CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO ENSURE PUBLIC HEALTH, ORDER, SAFETY AND SECURITY

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 5 of the 1987 Constitution provides “The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy”;

WHEREAS, recent bombings in Metro Manila, being the National Capital Region of the Philippines where most businesses and educational institutions are located, have caused alarm to the nation;

WHEREAS, on 06 May 2017, it was reported that twin bombing incidents took place in Quiapo, Manila which led to the death of two people and injuring six others¹;

WHEREAS, a news report dated 07 May 2017² stated that ISIS claimed responsibility for said twin explosions, but that this was denied by police officials who, instead, claimed that the motive behind the bombings was a feud among gang members;

WHEREAS, on 07 May 2017, National Capital Region Police Chief Oscar Albayalde stated that an eyewitness identified “a man riding a motorcycle allegedly

¹ Cahiles, Greg. Two dead, 6 injured in Quiapo explosions by Greg Cahiles. CNN Philippines. <http://cnnphilippines.com/metro/2017/05/06/two-explosion-quiapo-manila.html> (last accessed 9 May 2017).

² Gomez, Jim. Isis claims deadly Manila explosions - but police claims motive was personal feud. Independent. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/manila-explosion-isis-philippines-islamic-state-rodriago-duterte-a7722796.html> (last accessed 9 May 2017).

bearing the logo of Grab” as the person who delivered the explosive³;

WHEREAS, a previous bombing also occurred in Quiapo, Manila on 28 April 2017, the eve of the Philippine Government’s hosting of the ASEAN Summit, wherein at least fourteen (14) people were injured⁴;

WHEREAS, at present, the motive and the perpetrators behind these bombings have not been fully determined, and mere speculations are given by investigating officers as to the reason of these bombings; hence, there is continuous fear among the residents that another attack may again occur at any time;

WHEREAS, PNP Chief Ronald dela Rosa gave a perfunctory explanation that: “*Sorry, may sumabog. Nalusutan tayo,*” which prompted an editorial of a national daily to comment that “[h]ard questions have to be asked about the Quiapo explosions, and coherent and credible explanations from the police have to be forthcoming if the public is to be reassured and spared of the need for conjecture and speculation”⁵;

WHEREAS, there may be a need to regulate the security and screening measures being employed by private or common couriers in rendering services similar to that of “GrabExpress”, *i.e.*, measures relating to the acceptance and delivery of packages, towards the end of preventing future incidents of criminal or malicious elements using or exploiting such express courier services as a means to commit, not only bombing schemes and other crimes that compromise public order, safety and security, but possibly other acts that endanger public health;

WHEREAS, precautionary measures may also be proposed in order to ensure that similar incidents shall not happen again, such as by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of intelligence gathering, crime detection and incident response of our policemen and other law enforcers;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the recent bombings in Metro Manila, with the end view of instituting legislative measures to heighten the capacity of concerned government agencies to ensure public health, order, safety and security.

Adopted,


LILIA M. DE LIMA

³ CNN Philippines Staff (undisclosed). Grab Philippines confirms Quiapo blast victim was a ‘GrabExpress’ partner by CNN Philippines Staff; CNN Philippines. <http://cnnphilippines.com/news/2017/05/07/Quiapo-blast-GrabExpress-victim.html> (last accessed 9 May 2017).

⁴ Fonbuena, Carmela. At least 14 injured in Quiapo blast by Carmela Fonbuena. Rappler; <http://www.rappler.com/nation/168300-quiapo-explosion-20170428> (last accessed 9 May 2017).

⁵ “Red flag in Quiapo”. <https://opinion.inquirer.net/103858/red-flag-quiapo> (last accessed 10 May 2017).