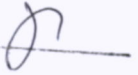


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC }
OF THE PHILIPPINES }
Second Regular Session }

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SENATE
Senate Bill No. 1734

RECEIVED



Introduced by **SENATOR LACSON**

AN ACT TO FURTHER DEVELOP CAPABILITY AND ESTABLISH EXPEDITIOUS TRANSFORMATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND ITS BUREAUS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Department of National Defense (DND) is the primary agency which supervises the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Government Arsenal (GA), the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO), the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP) and the Office of Civil Defense (OCD). Furthermore, the DND is mandated to supervise and administer the AFP Modernization Program.

Section 15, Chapter I, Title VIII, Book IV of Executive Order No. 292 mandates the DND to maximize its effectiveness for guarding against external and internal threats to national peace and security, and provide support for social and economic development.

Enacted 82 years ago, Commonwealth Act No. 1 or the National Defense Act of 1935 is the primary legislation that governs the defense and security of our country. Amid the many institutional and organizational developments, technical and capability enhancements, and technological advances in the AFP, the provisions of the law are deemed to be obsolete to adapt to changes. Thus, it is high time to pass a law that envisions a stronger defense department capable of addressing the current threats to our national security.

No less than President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, during his second State of the Nation Address (SONA), declared the need for a stronger and more credible National Defense System in order to address transnational issues such as insurgency and terrorism.

Hence, this Bill is envisioned to update national defense policies, principles and concepts, to institutionalize needed improvements and to codify various laws on national defense, the AFP, and the civilian bureaus, with the end in view of streamlining and further professionalizing our country's defense establishment.

Among the salient provisions of the Bill include:

1. Prohibition on the sale of defense real estates, except otherwise recommended by the Secretary of National Defense (SND), approved by the President and with the consent of