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

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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 156

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND ILLEGAL DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED RECRUITMENT-FOR-A-FEE SCAM IN THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), WITH THE END VIEW OF RECOMMENDING THE FILING OF APPROPRIATE CRIMINAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES AGAINST ERRING PNP PERSONNEL, AND REVIEWING AND/OR AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8551, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PNP REFORM AND REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1998"

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 27 of the Constitution mandates that "the State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption;"

WHEREAS, several mayors from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), particularly from the provinces of Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur, have complained about an alleged recruitment-for-a-fee scam in the PNP:

WHEREAS, fees ranging from P100,000.00 to P300,000.00 were allegedly charged to applicants endorsed by mayors to become new policemen to ensure their admittance to the PNP;

WHEREAS, Sultan Kudarat Mayor Tocao Mastura accused Napolcom-ARMM Director Mamerto Amadeo of violating two memorandum circulars of the National Police Commission on police recruitment;

WHEREAS, Mayor Mastura said that from his town's quota of six (6) police applicants, only one (1) had been sworn in despite the fact that five (5) had passed the qualifying and agility exams. The remaining slots, he said, were filled by outsiders;

WHEREAS, in Maguindanao alone, 40 of the 55 police applicants allegedly lost their slots since they failed to shell out money to ensure their inclusion in the list of recruits. Some applicants who made it, confided in Mayor Mastura that they indeed gave money, but were hesitant to come out in the open;

WHEREAS, aggrieved applicants and mayors called the alleged PNP's recruitment for a fee "highly irregular," and said that they have evidence to show that admission into the PNP was for a fee:

WHEREAS, recruitment and admission procedures in the PNP must be examined in the light of these allegations as these have cast serious doubts on the PNP's credibility, and may also cause loss of public trust and confidence in our police institution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, into the alleged recruitment-for-a-fee scam in the Philippine National Police (PNP), with the end view of recommending the filing of appropriate criminal and administrative charges against erring PNP personnel, and reviewing and/or amending Republic Act No. 8551, otherwise known as the "PNP Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998."

Adopted,

MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR Senator