

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

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 205

Introduced by Senator Biazon

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED ANOMALOUS PURCHASE BY THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES OF 1,700 UNITS OF M249 SQUAD AUTOMATIC WEAPON, OR MINIMI'S, WORTH P593.3 MILLION PARTICULARLY ON THE ALLEGED OVERPRICING THEREOF.

Whereas, Republic Act No. 7898 or the Armed Forces of the Philippines Modernization Law mandates the AFP to embark on an AFP Modernization Program where, among other things, the AFP will purchase brand-new equipment including assault weapons;

Whereas, In 2002, the AFP entered into a contract with Fabrique Nacional-Herstal (FNH), a Belgian company, for the purchase of 402 units of M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, or Minimi's, costing a total of P117.4 million and which were delivered in March 2003;

Whereas, In September 2004, the AFP approved a second contract with FNH, this time for 1,700 units of Minimi's costing P593.3 million;

Whereas, Allegations of overpricing have been raised because when the United States government purchased the same weapon from FNH, it only cost them \$9.5 million for 3,979 units, or \$2,401.50 per unit, compared to the \$5,088.20 cost per unit to the AFP;

Whereas, There are also reports that the Minimi is less efficient because the AFP uses inferior ammunition, and that the weapons were not immediately used "due to non-availability of locally-manufactured ammunitions, metallic links and a special plastic magazine box;"

Whereas, The explanation given was that the AFP contract, unlike that with the US, includes accessories such as spare barrels and cleaning kits and provisions on counter-trade and technology transfer; *Now, Therefore, Be It*

Resolved, By the Senate, As It Is Hereby Resolved, To Direct the Committee on National Defense and Security to Conduct an Inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported anomalous purchase by the Armed Forces of the Philippines of 1,700 units of M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, or Minimi's, Worth P593.3 Million Particularly on the Alleged Overpricing Thereof.

Adopted,


RODOLFO G. BIAZON
Senator