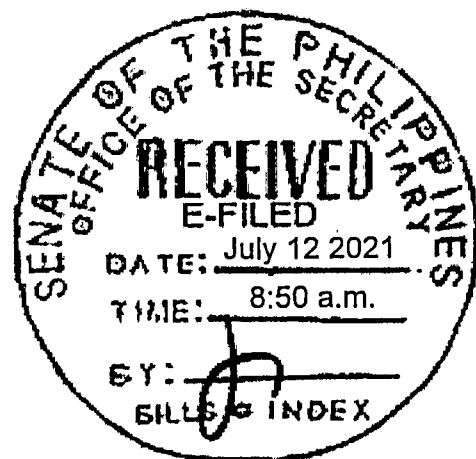


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )



SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 770

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Introduced by SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA

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**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT**  
**AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE GAINS,**  
**ACHIEVEMENTS, SHORTCOMINGS, AND ACCOUNTABILITIES IN THE**  
**GOVERNMENT'S "WAR ON DRUGS"**

1           WHEREAS, during his first State of the Nation Address in 2016, President  
2 Rodrigo Duterte stated that “[w]e will not stop until the last drug lord, the last  
3 financier and the last pusher have surrendered or are put either behind bars or below  
4 the ground, if they so wish”;

5           WHEREAS, President Duterte continued, “[t]o our police officers and other  
6 officials, do your job and you will have the unwavering support of the Office of the  
7 President. I will be with you all the way. Abuse your authority, and there will be hell  
8 to pay, for you will have become worse than criminality itself”;

9           WHEREAS, on 7 February 2020, P/Col. Romeo Caramat, then Director of the  
10 Philippine National Police Drug Enforcement Group (PNP-DEG), was quoted saying  
11 that the “shock and awe (approach of the government) definitely did not work”. He  
12 added that “[d]rug supply is still rampant”;<sup>1</sup>

13           WHEREAS, according to Jeremy Douglas, the Southeast Asia and Pacific  
14 Representative for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the  
15 street value of the illegal drugs are cheaper (in 2020) than when the War on Drugs

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<sup>1</sup> Allard, Tom and Karen Lema. Reuters (7 February 2020). *Exclusive: 'Shock and awe' has failed in Philippines drug war, enforcement chief says*. Retrieved from: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-philippines-drugs-performance-exclusi-idUSKBN2010IL>

1 began in 2016, which suggests that far more of the drug is reaching the streets than is  
2 being stopped;<sup>2</sup>

3 WHEREAS, on 1 March 2021, Sen. Panfilo Lacson was quoted saying that the  
4 “drug war really failed because the drugs are still there.” He added that “sad to say,  
5 the government’s anti-drug efforts have not succeeded. Otherwise, we would have  
6 made a big dent in the operations of drug syndicates”;<sup>3</sup>

7 WHEREAS, Peter Lim, a person accused by President Duterte himself, as one  
8 of the country’s biggest illegal drug dealers, has an outstanding warrant of arrest for  
9 conspiracy to engage in illegal drug trading and a ₱500,000 bounty on his head;

10 WHEREAS, it was recently announced by Department of Interior and Local  
11 Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año that the government has yet to  
12 determine Peter Lim’s whereabouts and that he thinks that he has already left the  
13 country;<sup>4</sup>

14 WHEREAS, on 6 November 2019, Vice President Leni Robredo was appointed  
15 as co-chair of the Inter-Agency Committee on Illegal Drugs (ICAD). During her stint,  
16 she conducted a thorough audit of the ongoing operations of various government  
17 agencies against illegal drugs;

18 WHEREAS, in the course of her audit, she inquired on the status of  
19 investigation and case-building against high-value targets in the anti-drug  
20 operations. Vice President Robredo was denied access to the information and was  
21 fired only 18 days after she was appointed;<sup>5</sup>

22 WHEREAS, on 6 January 2020, Vice President Robredo revealed her findings  
23 during her stint as co-chair of ICAD. According to her report, our law enforcement  
24 agencies were only able to seize 1% of the shabu supply in the Philippines. This was  
25 based on estimated annual use by the PNP-DEG of 156,000 kilos of shabu per year,

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<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Corrales, Nestor. Inquirer.net (1 March 2021). *Drug war a ‘failure,’ Lacson says*. Retrieved from: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1401119/drug-war-a-failure-lacson-says>

<sup>4</sup> ABS-CBN News. (26 June 2021) *Año: Suspected drug lord Peter Lim could have already left PH*. Retrieved from: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/26/21/ao-suspected-drug-lord-peter-lim-could-have-already-left-ph>

<sup>5</sup> CNN Philippines (25 November 2019). *TIMELINE: VP Robredo’s short stint as anti-drug body co-chair*. Retrieved from: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2019/11/25/Leni-Robredo-as-anti-drug-czar-ICAD.html>

1 and the reported annual seizure by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Authority  
2 (PDEA) of 1,061 kilos per year from 2017 to 2019;<sup>6</sup>

3 WHEREAS, Vice President Robredo's report also valued the annual  
4 consumption of shabu at about ₱1.3 trillion/year while the Anti-Money Laundering  
5 Council (AMLC) was only able to seize ₱1.4 billion worth of drug money from 2017 to  
6 2018;

7 WHEREAS, in 2016, the House of Representatives conducted a probe on the  
8 illegal drug trade in the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP), which led to the filing of the case  
9 for illegal drug trading, and later amended to conspiracy to commit illegal drug  
10 trading, against this representation who has consistently and firmly asserted her  
11 innocence;

12 WHEREAS, in spite of the allegation of conspiracy, and except for one, none  
13 of the alleged co-conspirators within the NBP were charged. In fact, the Department  
14 of Justice (DOJ) has likewise failed or refused to charge inmate Joel Capones, in  
15 spite of his admission in open court that he is part of the drug trade in the NBP. Mr.  
16 Capones is a prosecution witness, who purportedly was presented not as a state  
17 witness but an ordinary witness, hence, without immunity entitlement;

18 WHEREAS, even with direct access to the drug lords in NBP, the government  
19 has failed to obtain leads on drug supply chain or financing that could be useful in  
20 arresting the distribution of illegal drugs in our country;

21 WHEREAS, almost two years from Vice President Robredo's stint in the  
22 ICAD, no cases or arrests have been made against any high-value targets or big-time  
23 drug offenders;

24 WHEREAS, in spite of billions of pesos in intelligence fund, there has been no  
25 notable achievements in terms of effectively neutralizing any drug syndicate other  
26 than kill suspected low-level drug peddlers;

27 WHEREAS, even as the War on Drugs offer little significant gains in stopping  
28 the distribution of illegal drugs in our country, the violence that attended it caught  
29 the eye of international human rights agencies. According to the United Nations

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<sup>6</sup> Cepeda, Marian and Karen Cepeda. Rappler (6 January 2020). '1 over 100': Robredo calls Duterte's drug war a 'failure'. Retrieved from: <https://www.rappler.com/nation/robredo-duterte-drug-war-failure-icad-report>

1 Human Rights Council (UNHRC) report, President Duterte's "harmful rhetoric" and  
2 "incendiary" language combined with his government's "heavy-handed focus" on  
3 fighting illegal drugs and threats from insurgents has led to numerous deaths,  
4 arbitrary detentions and a suppression of dissent;<sup>7</sup>

5 WHEREAS, the UNHRC added that "[d]espite credible allegations of  
6 widespread and systematic extrajudicial killings in the context of the campaign  
7 against illegal drugs, there has been near impunity for such violations";<sup>8</sup>

8 WHEREAS, before this administration's term comes to an end, it behooves  
9 the Senate to evaluate the results or performance of one of the centerpiece programs  
10 of this government not only to determine the effectiveness of the program but also  
11 hold accountable those who used this program as cover for corruption and abuses;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, to direct the  
13 appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the  
14 gains, achievements, shortcomings, and accountabilities in the government's "War  
15 on Drugs."

*Adopted,*

  
LEILA M. DE LIMA

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<sup>7</sup> DW.com. (4 June 2020). *UN report decries human rights violations in Philippines' war on drugs*. Retrieved from: <https://www.dw.com/en/un-report-decries-human-rights-violations-in-philippines-war-on-drugs/a-53681998>

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*