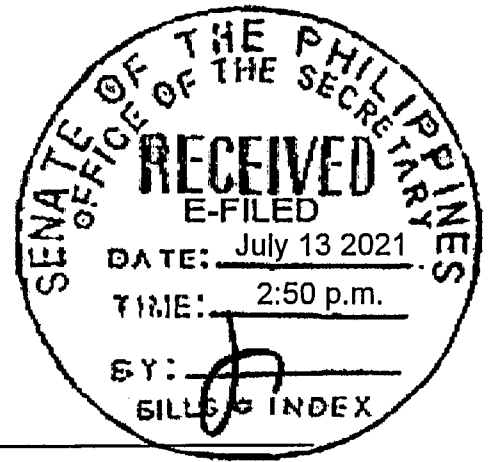


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 773



Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
INTO THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED
MODERNIZATION PROGRAM OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE
PHILIPPINES (AFP), IN THE USE AND MAINTENANCE OF ITS EQUIPMENT,
INCLUDING ITS AIRCRAFTS AND FACILITIES, IN RELATION TO THE
SERIES OF AIRCRAFT MISHAPS RESULTING TO THE UNTIMELY DEMISE OF
MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 3 of the 1987 Constitution declares that the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is the protector of the people and the State. Its goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory;

WHEREAS, Republic Act (R.A.) No. 7898 otherwise known as the "*AFP Modernization Act*" was enacted in 1995 to modernize the AFP to a level where it can effectively and fully perform its constitutional mandate to uphold the sovereignty and preserve the patrimony of the State. It mandates the acquisition and upgrading of appropriate technology and equipment and the relocation, improvement, and construction of bases and other facilities;

WHEREAS, R.A. No. 10349 otherwise known as "*An Act Amending Republic Act No. 7898, Establishing The Revised AFP Modernization Program And For Other Purposes,*" which was enacted on 11 December 2012, further mandates that the AFP Modernization Program entails the development and employment of certain capabilities that can address the assessed threats;

WHEREAS, during its peak, the AFP had in its inventory over 140 helicopters however was significantly reduced over the years due to wear and tear, as well as a number of mishaps. As of this year, the Armed Forces has a total of 165 active aircrafts wherein several are currently assigned to various missions, including air defense, transport, and disaster and relief operations;

WHEREAS, through the years, a number of crashes have occurred involving the Armed Forces. More notable are the ones this year which may be considered as the country's worst in around thirty years;

WHEREAS, according to news reports, for the year 2021 alone, four military aircraft mishaps have already been recorded, as follows: (1) on 16 January involving a UH-1H Huey Helicopter at Impasugong, Bukidnon which caused the death of 7 individuals; (2) on 27 April involving an MDG520MG Helicopter at Getafe, Bohol which caused the death of 1 individual; (3) on 23 June involving an S-70i Black Hawk Helicopter in Capas, Tarlac which caused the death of 6 individuals; and, most recently, the July 4 incident which involved a C-130 Hercules Plane which caused the death of 52 individuals in Jolo Sulu;

WHEREAS, during a press conference on 05 July 2021, AFP Spokesperson Major General Edgardo Arevalo stated that, "*The aircraft was in tip-top shape, it's not brand new, but it's in very good condition, X X X still had around 11,000 flying hours remaining before its next maintenance*". Major General Arevalo further assured that the aircraft was flown by seasoned and rated pilots;

WHEREAS, Philippine Air Force (PAF) Spokesperson Lt. Col. Maynard Mariano further stated that the safety of all PAF flying personnel and its assets are prioritized by PAF Commanding General Allen Paredes, as proven by his instructions to embark on the Safety Transformation for Enhanced Performance and Unit Preservation (STEP UP) program. Mariano also said the PAF launched the PAF Safety Climate Assessment and Notations (PAF SCAN) to gauge prevailing safety culture in units in terms of just, informed, learning, and reporting cultures and launched online safety courses for squadron commanders and other personnel, among others;

WHEREAS, despite the assurance of the AFP and the PAF to upgrade its Safety Programs and to keep up with the safety principles and standards, there is still a need to look into the operation and maintenance protocols of the AFP equipment, which are mostly second-hand, due to the alarming number of crashes involved;

WHEREAS, the latest crash has not only dealt a major blow to the country's military capability due to another loss in our limited available aircraft units but more notably the injuries and demise of our brave members of the Armed Forces who had been in continuous and selfless service to keep the peace in our country during these trying times of the pandemic;

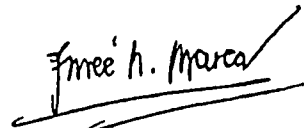
WHEREAS, with the huge increase in appropriations made in the 2021 General Appropriations Act, it is imperative for Congress to determine the status of the equipment, including its aircrafts and facilities used by the AFP in the performance of its operations and duties;

WHEREAS, it is also important for Congress to be informed on the measures set forth by the AFP in the maintenance of its equipment, aircrafts, and facilities to avoid further unfortunate incidents;

WHEREAS, given the ongoing threats in the South China Sea, possible extremist insurrections, the unending dangers of insurgencies throughout the country and the continuing onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic, the modernization of the Armed Forces should be pursued efficiently in order to further protect the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,
directing the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation,
into the status of implementation of the Revised Modernization Program of the Armed
Forces of the Philippines (AFP), in the use and maintenance of its equipment, including
its aircrafts and facilities, in relation to the series of aircraft mishaps resulting to the
untimely demise of members of the Armed Forces.

Adopted,


IMEE R. MARCOS