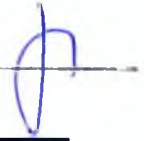


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

23 MAR -6 A9 :07

SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 518

RECEIVED BY: _____



Introduced by SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE BRAZEN ASSASSINATION OF INCUMBENT NEGROS ORIENTAL GOVERNOR ROEL DEGAMO AND THE SPATE OF RECENT POLITICAL ASSASSINATION OR ATTEMPTED POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS IN VARIOUS AREAS OF THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, in the morning of March 4, 2023, while meeting his constituents, Governor Roel Degamo, governor of Negros Oriental province, was killed by rifle-bearing men garbed in military fatigues who entered his home in Pamplona town and opened fire;

WHEREAS, five other individuals were killed along with him;

WHEREAS, just a month before, the Supreme Court declared Governor Degamo the rightful winner of the contest for the Negros Oriental governorship, after nullifying the votes of a nuisance can-- and-- one "Ruel Degamo", a virtual namesake of Governor Degamo -- and finding that adding the latter's votes to the votes of Degamo would result in him obtaining more votes than his erstwhile rival, making it imperative to investigate whether or not the murder was a consequence of this chain of events;

WHEREAS, as of March 5, a Sunday morning, it was reported that three alleged suspects in the killing had been arrested by the Negros Oriental Police Provincial Office in Sitio Punong, Barangay Cansumalig, Bayawan, after a hot-pursuit operation and a retrieval of the get-away vehicle;

WHEREAS, this is not the first time that Negros Oriental has swept the headlines for incidents of political violence -- violence characterized not only by its brazenness but also by the complicity, if not active involvement, of men in the uniformed service;

WHEREAS, in fact, the Senate in the previous Congress investigated the involvement of police personnel in the spate of vigilante killings in the region;

WHEREAS, the killing of Governor Degamo comes at the heels of other political killings and attempted assassinations, including that of Cagayan Vice Mayor Rommel Almeda, and the wounding of Lanao del Sur Governor Mamintal Adiong, Jr. and Mayor Ohto Caumbo Montawal, of Datu Montawal, Maguindanao del Sur just last month, and the killing of former Vice Mayor Danilo Amat of Quezon, Quezon Province, former Vice Mayor Romeo Sulit from Lobo, Batangas, and former Mayor Rosita Furigay of Lamitan City, Basilan in the first month alone of the new administration;

WHEREAS, a Senate investigation should be conducted not only to exact justice for the victims, but also to identify the underlying drivers of the killings, particularly the failure and inaction of our institutions, especially our law enforcement agencies, to address political violence, as well as election-related violence;

WHEREAS, such investigation will also help address the culture of impunity that gives rise to the growing brazenness of the methods of the assassinations and/or attempted assassinations;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, TO DIRECT THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE BRAZEN ASSASSINATION OF INCUMBENT NEGROS ORIENTAL GOVERNOR ROEL DEGAMO AND THE SPATE OF RECENT POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS OR ATTEMPTED POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS IN VARIOUS AREAS OF THE COUNTRY

Adopted,

Risa Hontiveros
RISA HONTIVEROS *jh*