


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

23 SEP 13 P5:55

SENATE

P.S. RES. No. 796

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **SENATOR RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED PRESENCE AND OPERATION OF A SHABU LABORATORY, HEAVILY-ARMED PRIVATE ARMY OF EXTREMIST GROUPS AT THE HEAVILY-GUARDED SITIO KAPIHAN, BARANGAY SERING, SOCORRO, SURIGAO DEL NORTE WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES THAT WOULD ENSURE THE PROMOTION AND SAFEGUARDING THE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF PERSONS

1 WHEREAS, Section 5 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides under its
2 principles, "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and
3 property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by
4 all the people of the blessings of democracy";¹
5

6 WHEREAS, last September 07, 2023, the office of Senator Ronald "Bato" Dela
7 Rosa received a letter containing a resolution from the Mayor of the Municipality of
8 Socorro, Province of Surigao Del Norte requesting an investigation on the alleged
9 operation of Shabu Laboratory and the presence of heavily-armed private army
10 dubbed as "Agila" supported by extremist groups in Southern Mindanao all
11 happening in Sitio Kapihan, Barangay Sering, Socorro, Surigao del Norte;
12

13 WHEREAS, Socorro Bayanihan Services, Inc. (SBSI), is the largest people's
14 organization in the island town of Socorro, Surigao del Norte;
15

16 WHEREAS, it was alleged that due to a Magnitude 5.9 earthquake on
17 February 9, 2019, members of the SBSI abandoned their homes and proceeded to
18 Sitio Kapihan, Barangay Sering, Socorro, Surigao del Norte upon orders of Jay
19 Rence, who the group claimed as God's reincarnation of Senior Sto. Niño (Holy Child
20 Jesus) whom they called "Senior Agila;

¹ <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/constitutions/the-1987-constitution-of-the-republic-of-the-philippines/the-1987-constitution-of-the-republic-of-the-philippines-article-ii/>

1
2 WHEREAS, it was further claimed that the SBSI had slowly been transformed
3 into a cultic group and had changed its course from the path of peaceful co-
4 existence with the government, the community and other stakeholders into the path
5 of controversy;

6
7 WHEREAS, the following were allegedly revealed by the eye-witnesses of the
8 Socorro Task Force Kapihan, the task force formed by the LGU of Socorro to address
9 the problems concerning the Kapihan residents:

- 10
11 • Presence of a shabu laboratory at the underground bunker within the
12 vicinity of the white house where the two (2) Kapihan Leaders Karren J.
13 Sanico and Jey Rence B. Quilario are residing;
- 14
15 • Murder of Mrs. Rosalina L. Taruc, who was the esteemed and virtuous
16 President Socorro Bayanihan Services, Inc. in 2021 and of her daughter
17 former Mayor Denia T, Florano and incoming Bayanihan leader who
18 mysteriously died eight days after the death of her mother;
- 19
20 • Presence of a heavily-armed private army dubbed as the "Agila" with the
21 arms, ammunitions and uniforms allegedly provided by extremist groups
22 in Southern Mindanao. Moreover, the people in the heavily-guarded Sitio
23 Kapihan were being used as "human shields" by one of the four (4)
24 identified group leaders in the person of Karren J. Sanico;
- 25
26 • Massive forced marriage at the age of twelve (12) of children-members
27 with the Supreme Leader Jey Rence Quilario allegedly ordering selected
28 girl-brides to sleep with him first for one (1) night before being turned
29 over to the young groom. Moreover, children starting from birth up to
30 their marriage are not allowed to go out of the gated community;
- 31
32 • Alleged abuses committed by the four (4) identified leaders of the group,
33 especially Janeth T. Ajoc, in collecting fifty per cent (50%) of the wages of their
34 carpenter/mason members, fifty per cent (50%) of the fish catch of their
35 fishermen-members, thirty per cent (30%) share of the proceeds on the sale of
36 the members' real properties, and (50%) of subsidies for 4Ps and Senior
37 Citizens;

38 WHEREAS, based on the 2023 Census of Population of the Socorro Bayanihan
39 Services, Inc. which was prepared and signed by the association's Secretary-
40 General, the total population in Sitio Kapihan is 3,560 and majority of whom are

1 terrorized with the presence of a private army in their community and are being
2 exploited as human shields;

3
4 WHEREAS, there is a need, not only to investigate cult groups that affects the
5 livelihood of innocent communities, but also to look into possible legislative remedies
6 to deter the possible injustice and danger that this may cause for the citizens of
7 Socorro, Surigao del Norte;

8
9 WHEREAS, the Senate must take seriously even the smallest allegation of the
10 existence of private armies as well as that of a shabu laboratory, as these threaten
11 the very foundations of public order on which our communities stand;

12
13 NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to
14 direct the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs to conduct an inquiry, in
15 aid of legislation, into the alleged presence and operation of a shabu laboratory,
16 heavily-armed private army of extremist groups at the heavily-guarded Sitio
17 Kapihan, Barangay Sering, Socorro, Surigao Del Norte, with the end in view of
18 recommending legislative measures that would ensure the promotion and
19 safeguarding the basic human rights and dignity of persons.

Adopted,


RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA