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SENATE

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Introduced by **Senator Ronald "Bato" Marapon dela Rosa**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE CONTINUOUS RADICALIZATION AND RECRUITMENT OF STUDENTS IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNIST TERRORIST GROUPS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING THE ROLES AND LIABILITIES OF CONCERNED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN PREVENTING THE SAME IN CONNECTION WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11479, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2020 AND OTHER RELATED LAWS

1 **WHEREAS**, Section 4, Article II of the 1987 Constitution prescribes that the
2 prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people;

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Section 5 of the same declares that the maintenance of peace
5 and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the
6 general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of
7 democracy;

8
9 **WHEREAS**, it is enshrined in Section 13, Article II of the same that the State
10 recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and
11 protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall
12 inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement
13 in public and civic affairs;

14
15 **WHEREAS**, Section 3 (2), Article XIV of the same provides that they
16 [educational institutions] shall inculcate patriotism and nationalism, foster love of
17 humanity, respect for human rights, appreciation of the role of national heroes in the
18 historical development of the country, teach the rights and duties of citizenship,
19 strengthen ethical and spiritual values, develop moral character and personal
20 discipline, encourage critical and creative thinking, broaden scientific and
21 technological knowledge, and promote vocational efficiency;

1
2 **WHEREAS**, Section 4 (1), Article XIV of the same states that the State
3 recognizes the complementary roles of public and private institutions in the
4 educational system and shall exercise reasonable supervision and regulation of all
5 educational institutions;

6
7 **WHEREAS**, Article 218 of the Family Code expresses that the school, its
8 administrators and teachers, or the individual, entity or institution engaged in child
9 care shall have special parental authority and responsibility over the minor child
10 while under their supervision, instruction or custody. Authority and responsibility
11 shall apply to all authorized activities whether inside or outside the premises of the
12 school, entity or institution;

13
14 **WHEREAS**, Section 2 of R.A. No. 11479 declares that it is a policy of the
15 State to protect life, liberty, and property from terrorism, to condemn terrorism as
16 inimical and dangerous to the national security of the country and to the welfare of
17 the people, and to make terrorism a crime against the Filipino people, against
18 humanity, and against The Law of Nations;

19
20 **WHEREAS**, the Philippines is a signatory to the Optional Protocol to the
21 Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed
22 Conflict (OPAC), also known as the child soldier treaty. Article 4 of the said treaty
23 forbids non-state armed groups, under any circumstances, from recruiting or using
24 in hostilities anyone under the age of 18. Furthermore, it mandates the State Parties
25 to take all feasible steps to prevent such recruitments and use, including the
26 adoption of legal measures necessary to prohibit and criminalize such practice¹;

27
28 **WHEREAS**, the United Nations Security Council recognizes the rise of
29 radicalization to violence and violent extremism, especially amongst youth, threatens
30 stability and development, and can often derail peacebuilding efforts and foment
31 conflict, and stressing the importance of addressing conditions and factors leading to
32 the rise of radicalization to violence and violent extremism amongst youth, which
33 can be conducive to terrorism²;

34
35 **WHEREAS**, the Philippines expressed its declaration³ to counter radicalization
36 and violent extremism, in particular those which lead to terrorism in all forms and
37 manifestations, through means such as the prevention of radicalization, financing,
38 recruitment, and mobilization of individuals into terrorist groups;

39

¹ Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts; Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution A/RES/54/263 of 25 May 2000, entered into force on 12 February 2002.

² United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015), Urging Member States to Increase Representation of Youth in Decision-Making at All Levels.

³ Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism at the 11th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime, 20 September 2017.

1 **WHEREAS**, violent radicalization is defined⁴ as the phenomenon of people
2 embracing opinions, views and ideas which could lead to acts of terrorism. Moreover,
3 radicalization is defined⁵ as the process by which individuals increasingly adopt a
4 violent extremist or terrorist ideology.

5
6 **WHEREAS**, the youth which includes the student sector is the prospective
7 recruits of the communist groups and its affiliates. The cycle employed is "Arouse,
8 Organize and Mobilize". This is the cycle wherein students are invited to
9 lectures/fora/discussions on campus issues, which will later tackle more serious and
10 relevant social problems that would instigate restlessness and agitation among the
11 young people. Indoctrination of communist ideology then takes place. Thereafter,
12 students are invited to undergo "immersion programs" where they personally
13 experience dealing with poor communities and realize the "inability" of the
14 Government to uplift the lives of the people in the countryside. Those students who
15 choose to return to school after their "exposure" to the rural areas continue the
16 agitation and recruitment propaganda with other students, while those who choose
17 to stay with the NPAs are further indoctrinated, eventually become hardcore
18 members, and are mobilized in the armed struggle in the countryside⁶;

19
20 **WHEREAS**, socially or politically frustrated youngsters may go through quite
21 different paths of radicalization into militancy and terrorism. Usually they personally
22 experience discrimination, unfair competition with other groups over scarce
23 resources or an absence of prospects for a good future. For some this feeling of
24 rejection from society turns them into bitter enemies of their host society to which
25 they no longer experience any meaningful form of bond⁷;

26
27 **WHEREAS**, despite the effectivity of the Human Security Act from 2007 to
28 2020, as well as the Anti-Terrorism Act from 2020 to the present, youth students,
29 emancipated or not, are still being radicalized and recruited, even within the
30 premises of schools or universities, to join the Communist Party of the Philippines-
31 New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) collectively referred to
32 as Communist Terrorist Group (CTG);

33
34 **WHEREAS**, recent data for the period of 2013-2023 shows that numerous
35 students, who are members of CTG front organizations, were either arrested,
36 surrendered or neutralized, to wit: eleven (11) for Regions IV-A and B⁸; eight (8) for
37 Northern Mindanao⁹; thirteen (13) for CAR, and Regions I and II¹⁰; three (3) for

⁴ Communication from the Commission of the European Countries to the European Parliament and the Council concerning terrorist recruitment: addressing the factors contributing to violent radicalization, 21 September 2005.

⁵ National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice, FY22 Research and Evaluation on Domestic Radicalization and Violent Extremism, March 10, 2022.

⁶ Senate Committee Report No. 10, 1 October 2019.

⁷ Radicalization Processes Leading to Acts of Terrorism: A concise Report prepared by the European Commission's Expert Group on Violent Radicalization for the European Commission, 15 May 2008.

⁸ 2nd Infantry "Jungle Fighter" Division List of Information on Neutralized, Surrendered, or Arrested from Front Organizations.

⁹ 8th Infantry "Diamond" Division List of Information on Neutralized, Surrendered, or Arrested from Front Organizations.

1 SOCCSKSARGEN Region¹¹; forty (40) for Region III¹²; three (3) for Region V¹³; and
2 forty-seven (47) for Region XI¹⁴;

3
4 **WHEREAS**, there is an urgent need to investigate the radicalization and
5 recruitment by the CTGs, including the nonfeasance of schools, its administrators
6 and teachers despite the latter's special parental authority over the minor child
7 under their supervision, instruction or custody;

8
9 **WHEREAS**, existing loopholes as well as lack of appropriate and necessary
10 provisions in the Anti-Terrorism Act and in other relevant laws are being exploited by
11 the CTGs, allowing the latter to continue radicalizing and recruiting students with
12 impunity;

13
14 **WHEREAS**, Congress, through relevant and appropriate legislation, must end
15 the CTGs' deceptive trap, which results to youth destruction and offender's impunity,
16 by facilitating the enforcement of the full extent of the law against persons
17 responsible for radicalization and recruitment;

18
19 **WHEREFORE, IT BEING HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE SENATE**, to direct
20 the Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs to conduct an inquiry,
21 in aid of legislation, into the continuous radicalization and recruitment of students in
22 educational institutions to the local communist terrorist groups with the end in view
23 of determining the roles and liabilities of concerned student organizations and
24 educational institutions in preventing the same in connection with the
25 implementation of Republic Act No. 11479, otherwise known as the Anti-Terrorism
26 Act of 2020 and other related laws.

Adopted,


RONALD M. DELA ROSA

¹⁰ 5th Infantry "Star" Division List of Information on Neutralized, Surrendered, or Arrested from Front Organizations.

¹¹ 6th Infantry "Kampilan" Division List of Information on Neutralized, Surrendered, or Arrested from Front Organizations.

¹² 7th Infantry "Kaugnay" Division List of Information on Neutralized, Surrendered, or Arrested from Front Organizations.

¹³ 9th Infantry "Spear" Division List of Information on Neutralized, Surrendered, or Arrested from Front Organizations.

¹⁴ 10th Infantry "Agila" Division List of Information on Neutralized, Surrendered, or Arrested from Front Organizations.