

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

SENATE

P.S. No. 61

INTRODUCED BY THE HONORABLE MAR ROXAS

A RESOLUTION

HONORING TEACHER MUSA DIMASIDSING, WHO WAS MURDERED AFTER EXPOSING ALLEGED POLL FRAUD; URGING THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO IMMEDIATELY RESOLVE THE MURDER CASE; AND DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE HAZARDS EXPERIENCED BY TEACHERS DURING ELECTIONS;

WHEREAS, 60-year old Musa Dimasidsing, a native of Maguindanao, who by virtue of his being school district supervisor of the Department of Education, was involved in the May 14, 2007 elections, and was shot to death by still unidentified gunmen on June 9, 2007;

WHEREAS, news reports identified Dimasidsing as one of the teachers who exposed election fraud in Maguindanao, affirming despite threats to his life that ballots were tampered with and thus do not reflect genuine people's votes for the senatorial elections;

WHEREAS, no less than North Cotabato police chief Senior Inspector Elias Dandan had said that the murder was politically-motivated;

WHEREAS, the unresolved murder of Dimasidsing is a blot on the nation's soul and a stern reminder that electoral reforms are needed to strengthen Philippine democracy;

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon us, as Filipinos and genuine believers in the democratic way of life, to uncover the truth about how elections were conducted in Maguindanao and to know more about the man named Musa Dimasidsing so his death would not be in vain;

WHEREAS, there have been incidents in past elections where public school teachers were murdered, or otherwise killed or injured, while rendering election duties, including the case of teacher Nelie Banaag who was killed when a group of armed men set to fire the Pinagbayanan Elementary School in this year's Senatorial elections;

WHEREAS, there is a need to look into the safety and welfare of teachers rendering election duties, especially those serving in known election hotspots;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate honor teacher Musa Dimasidsing, who died while refusing to let election fraud pass despite risks to his own life;

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that the Senate urge the relevant agencies of the executive branch, including the police authorities, to immediately resolve the murder case;

RESOLVED, FINALLY, that the Senate direct the appropriate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the hazards confronting teachers undertaking poll duties especially in known election hot spots to highlight the urgency of electoral reforms.

Adopted,


MAR ROXAS
Senator