

SENATE  
P. S. Res. No. 477

6 MAR 28 P4:28

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Introduced by Senator Biazon

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED ASSASSINATION PLOT AGAINST THE PRESIDENT DURING THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY'S GRADUATION CEREMONIES ON 25 MARCH 2006.

*Whereas*, On the eve of the annual graduation ceremonies at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) on 25 March 2006 where the President was scheduled to appear, the military went on full alert status in Metro Manila and Northern Luzon purportedly as a precautionary measure against an assassination plot against the President;

*Whereas*, This plot is said to be a part of "Operation Plan Hackle" which, according to Armed Forces Public Information Office Col. Tristan Kison, is an alleged blueprint of a plot to assassinate Arroyo and Cabinet members as part of a wider conspiracy by disgruntled soldiers, left-wing groups and civilian backers;

*Whereas*, AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Jose Angel Honrado said that the plot included a bomb attack during the graduation ceremony at the PMA based on "recovered documents that they will conduct destabilization activities;" The discovery of this plan has also led to the thwarting of an alleged coup attempt that prompted the President to declare a state of national emergency on 24 February 2006;

*Whereas*, Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor has denied claims that this was an attempt by the Palace to scare citizens and to prepare them for another bout of emergency rule. "We are not saying this to scare the people. What we are saying is that the assassination plot against the President is true," Defensor said;

*Whereas*, Despite such denials, the Senate has to confirm the veracity of these reports as there have been allegations as well that these are only being used to cover or pave the way for more repressive presidential issuances;


*Whereas*, Considering the gravity of such a criminal offense of assassinating the President, there is a need to review our penal laws to determine whether these are sufficient in addressing this crime in terms of nature of the offense, the imposable penalty, degrees of participation, stages of execution, etc;

*Whereas*, We may also have to look at the state of preparedness of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) in terms of its mandate, training, equipment, manpower and overall capability in performing their mission of protecting the President, among others;

*Whereas*, Being the Chief Executive, the President must be given the highest protection available not only because any untoward incident may cause political instability, but also because the Presidency is an institution that symbolizes the country's sovereignty and democracy; *Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, As It Is Hereby Resolved,*

*By the Senate*, To Direct The Committee On National Defense And Security To Inquire, In Aid Of Legislation, On The Alleged Assassination Plot Against The President During The Philippine Military Academy's Graduation Ceremonies On 25 March 2006.

Approved.

  
Rodolfo G. Biazon  
Senator