

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

5 MAY 25 P5:17

RECEIVED BY: _____

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 266

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND ILLEGAL DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT WERE FOLLOWED IN THE INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE MISTAKEN SHOOTING OF A FAMILY VAN BY MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS TEAM OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE AND THE SHOOTOUT BETWEEN THE NATIONAL ANTI-KIDNAPPING TASK FORCE AND SUSPECTED KIDNAPPERS WHICH RESULTED TO THE DEATH OF A FOUR-YEAR OLD GIRL, WITH THE END VIEW OF RECOMMENDING AND REVIEWING POLICY MEASURES TO AVOID A REPETITION OF THESE UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2005, the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (NAKTF) team was then pursuing a group of suspected members of the Allan Balimbingan kidnap-for-ransom gang when they shot it out with the five suspects in a narrow shanty-lined streets connecting Navotas with Manila;

WHEREAS, four-year old Jennifer Gallando was playing inside her family's shanty when she was hit by a stray bullet which caused her death in the shootout between the NAKTF operatives and the suspected kidnappers;

WHEREAS, the driver and five children on board a passing Nissan van and the driver of a passing truck and his helper were also hit by stray bullets;

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2005, the Bagtas and Buera families were on their way to a fiesta in San Pablo City in Laguna when they stopped their van at a Shell service station. The Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT), mistaking their vehicle for the getaway vehicle from a robbery at a nearby bakery then opened fire, peppering the driver's side with bullets and shattering its windows;

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region Police Office Chief Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr. stated that apparently, there was no cause for them to open fire as the people on board the Toyota Tamaraw FX van were not firing at them;


WHEREAS, while we acknowledge and commend the accomplishments of the NAKTF and the Philippine National Police (PNP), lapses on police operations should never be tolerated as they undermine the public's confidence

on the capability of the entire PNP as well as endanger the lives of innocent civilians they are charged to protect;

WHEREAS, if the abovementioned shooting incidents were indeed a result of lapses in the observance of the rules of engagement of the PNP and the NAKTF, they should review the same to avoid a repetition of the said incidents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, to determine whether or not the rules of engagement were followed in the incidents involving the mistaken shooting of a family van by members of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team of the Philippine National Police and the shootout between the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force and suspected kidnappers which resulted to the death of a four-year old girl, with the end view of recommending policy measures to avoid a repetition of these unfortunate events

Adopted,


MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.
Senator